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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

CHC beefs up response to Zika virus

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has strengthened its response in making sure that the Zika virus—the current virus that's infecting a lot of countries today including one U.S. territory—will not infect the CNMI.

» Muna: No case yet for CNMI

See HEALTH on Page 4

Torres in Fiji for utility financing endeavor

» Invites CUC board but Sablan blasts board for undisclosed trip

By DENNIS B. CHAN and FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTERS

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres flew to Fiji last weekend to meet with the management of the Fijian Electricity Authority to discuss undisclosed "financing options" applicable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Saipan.

Torres is in Fiji to meet with its local power authority, on an invite to tour their power facility and discuss

See TORRES on Page 4

Live-fire, and landfill issues on mind of Tinian casino investors

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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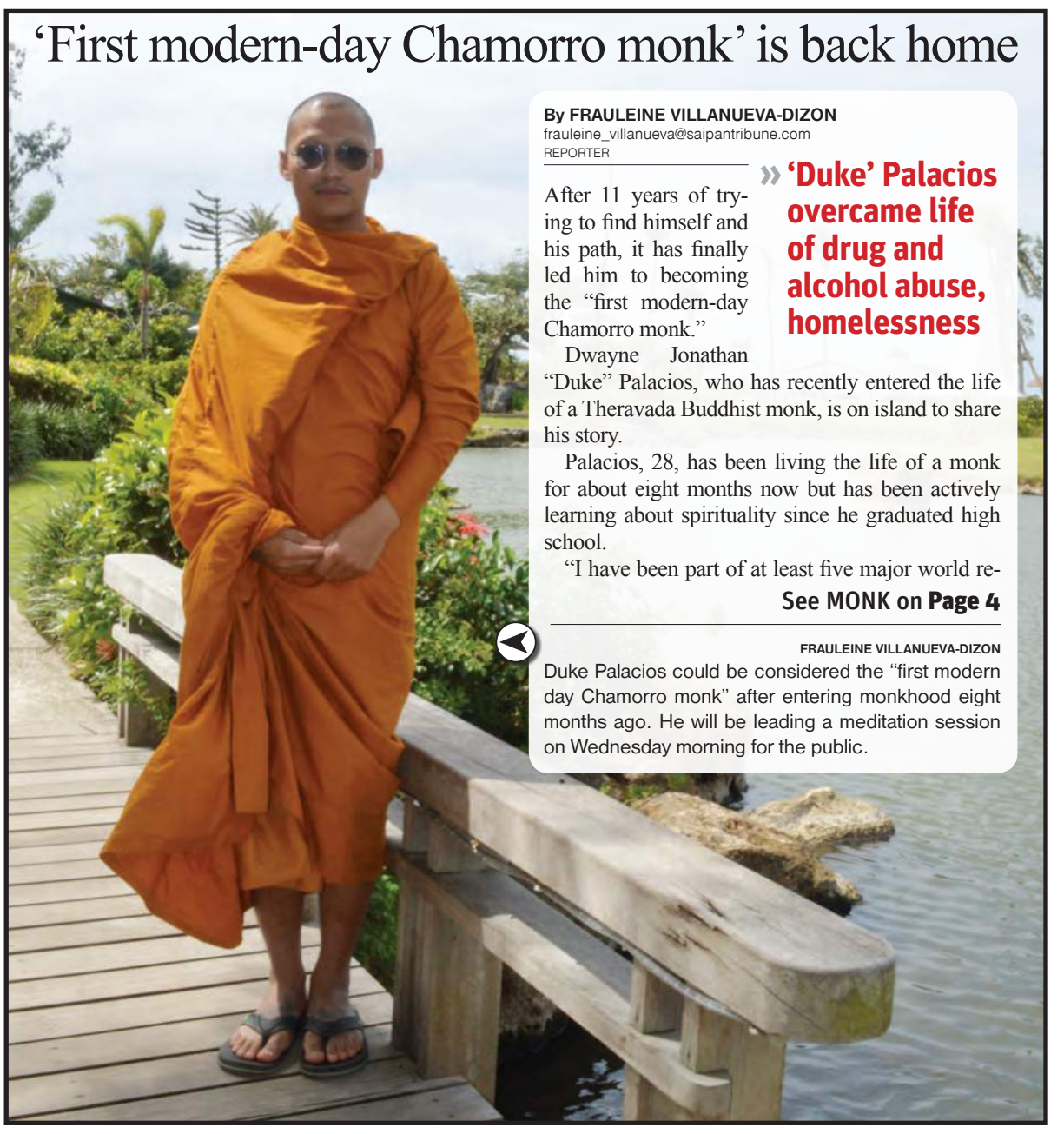
REPORTER

Tinian casino investors, the Tinian mayor, U.S. military officials, and other stakeholders reconvene today to seek solutions for Tinian's open-air dump.

Alter City Group managing director Ken Lin and Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas said last week they would be meeting with U.S. military officials today, Feb. 2., to discuss the cost estimates of shipping this waste off-island.

See LIVE-FIRE on Page 4

'First modern-day Chamorro monk' is back home



By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

» 'Duke' Palacios overcame life of drug and alcohol abuse, homelessness

After 11 years of trying to find himself and his path, it has finally led him to becoming the "first modern-day Chamorro monk."

Dwayne Jonathan "Duke" Palacios, who has recently entered the life of a Theravada Buddhist monk, is on island to share his story.

Palacios, 28, has been living the life of a monk for about eight months now but has been actively learning about spirituality since he graduated high school.

"I have been part of at least five major world re-

See MONK on Page 4

FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

Duke Palacios could be considered the "first modern day Chamorro monk" after entering monkhood eight months ago. He will be leading a meditation session on Wednesday morning for the public.

INSIDE

LOCAL
Pepe R. Crisostomo was installed as Emon Lodge No. 179's Worshipful Master of the Free and Accepted Masons.
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WORLD
A survivor hidden in a tree says he watched Boko Haram extremists firebomb huts and heard the screams of children burning to death.
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LIFE & STYLE
"Kung Fu Panda 3" kicked its way to the top of the North American box office with a respectable $41 million.
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Local

Teregeyo is new DPL secretary

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo is the new Department of Lands secretary following the "recasting" of former secretary Pete A. Tenorio to a policy advisor position.

Concepcion-Teregeyo served as the Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources with a minor in Fisheries Conservation.

"Governor Torres is pleased to nominate Marianne to the post as Secretary for the Department of Public Lands," said press secretary Ivan Blanco yesterday. "She is well versed in the management and conservation of CNMI's resources whether marine or terrestrial."

"Her strong educational background coupled with her experience in budgeting and finance will surely be assets as she manages our public lands resources. We are pleased that she accepted this nomination and look forward to welcoming her to the team."

Teregeyo has two AA's, an Associate of Arts General Studies and an Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer. She is also the District Appeals Board Member for the United States Selective Service and has recently completed the highly competitive USDA Graduate School, Executive Leadership Development Program under the Department of Interior in 2013.

Prior to returning to DLNR, Teregeyo worked as a paralegal for the Law Offices of William Satterberg Jr. and Matthew Gregory. She also served as an agency representative to the Coastal Resources Management agency meetings, which oversees all major land development permits. She was the Special Assistant to the Secretary of DLNR from 2008-2013. Immediately after college Teregeyo was hired as the head of the Enforcement Section under the Division of Fish and Wildlife. She worked a total of 12 years under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Teregeyo's responsibilities varied from overseeing accounting of program funds and federal grants, to billing federal agencies for services rendered, responding to legislation affecting marine and terrestrial resources of the CNMI, which include but not limited to federally listed threatened and endangered species. Her role varies from budget to personnel on top of her educational background in implementing best management practices for native and endemic flora and fauna. In her current capacity, Teregeyo is required to be versed on varying issues from budgets, operating procedures, staff management, invasive species, endangered species, accountability, enforcement, etc.

Teregeyo

Teregero also owns the local restaurant Boka Boka, along with Me'Mong's gumballs.

JON PEREZ

Community members that attended the meeting to revive Beautify CNMI! pose for a group photo.

Kaipat revives Beautify CNMI

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lawmaker Cinta Kaipat held a meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to revive the Beautify CNMI! campaign with the goal of reinvigorating volunteer work and keeping the islands clean.

Representatives from of the Commonwealth Advocacy for Recovery Efforts, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Japanese community, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and other concerned citizens of the community attended the meeting.

Beautify CNMI!, founded in 2006, is a diverse group of like-minded individuals whose common ground is to take care of the environment. It is a coalition of concerned citizens, and various government agencies and private groups.

The group has done various projects in the community like tree planting, island cleanups, painting graffiti, and recycling. They had been dormant for a couple years after several of the founders either got busy with work and other projects or went off-island.

"It is a diverse group that broke down boundaries. It is a group united by a common goal of taking care of the environment, enhance the CNMI's natural beauty, and foster community pride in its residents," said Kaipat.

Angelo Villagomez, who is one of the founders of Beautify CNMI!, has been involved in various community volunteer works before moving to the mainland. He is now based in Washington, D.C. but is on island to help Kaipat reorganize the group.

Kaipat said that her goal is not to replace the current post-Typhoon Soudelor work being done by various other groups but to enhance what they have been doing.

"We are not only making it beautiful for us but also for the tourists and for our children. We want to revive the campaign and join it with other work being done on the island today," added Kaipat, who shared a lot of stories of volunteers that helped them in various projects.

Villagomez said that he usually comes back once or twice a year on Saipan and he could help the group even when he's in the nation's capital. "We just need to discuss the issues that need to be addressed. Years ago we managed to band together community groups, the government, and private sector. It was diverse, big, fun, and exciting."

Kaipat said that she alone doesn't have the answers but if working as one group they can find solutions to some of the environmental problems that affect the CNMI today. "Let's reinvigorate Beautify CNMI! and see what we can accomplish. The needs and problems now could be different but one thing is sure, they still affect the people of the CNMI."

Beautify CNMI! had previously received recognition from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Congress for their volunteer work, and was the *Saipan Tribune*'s 2006 Person of the Year.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Staff of Bank of Hawaii, including vice president and branch manager for Saipan Rose Sumor, pose before the ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of their newly-opened consolidated branch in Gualo Rai.

BoH opens consolidated branch in Gualo Rai

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bank of Hawaii has now closed its two branches and opened a single branch in Gualo Rai along Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

BOH announced since last October their plan to consolidate the two branches to the one at Springs Plaza.

"We are very excited about the new Gualo Rai branch and have introduced a number of enhancements to improve the customer experience," West Pacific manager Hobbs Lowson said.

"In addition to the added convenience provided at the new centralized location on Middle Road we are introducing envelope-free ATMs and bio metric safe deposit box access," he added.

The BoH branch located at Marina Heights Business Park in Chalan Pale Arnold Road closed last Dec. 31. The branch located at Chalan Kanoa, on the other hand, closed last Jan. 29.

The new branch was packed yesterday morning and there was quite a line of people wanting to have their transactions processed.

"I understand that it was busy this morning as a result of the grand opening and am glad that there was so much interest," Lowson said

Asked if there is a possibility of opening up another branch, Lowson said there are no plans yet.

"We have no plans for another branch at this time," he said.

According to Lowson, the automated teller machines in their old branches in Chalan Kanoa and Puerto Rico will be closed early this month.

"We are evaluating alternatives. Customers are encouraged to use nearby ATMs," Lowson said.

Woman gets 366-day prison term for arranging fake marriages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has slapped a 12-month and one day imprisonment against Qiong Lu Pua, a woman who was convicted for orchestrating two sham marriages so that her brother and friend could obtain green cards.

At a sentencing hearing on Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Aamona V. Manglona said after completing the prison term, Pua shall serve three years of supervised release.

Manglona ordered Pua to pay a $4,000 fine and $100 in special assessment fee immediately after sentencing, and perform 50 hours of community service.

After her release from jail, Pua shall also be delivered to Immigration for removal proceedings, among other conditions.

Pua, a Chinese citizen, is a legal permanent resident of the United States.

Manglona ordered Pua to contact the U.S. Marshal's Office in Guam every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by telephone to determine the date for her to self-surrender.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell Lorfing, counsel for the U.S. government, and U.S. probation officer Margarita Wonenberg both recommended a sentence of 18 months imprisonment and a $4,000 fine.

Attorney Benjamin Petersburg, counsel for Pua, recommended no jail time and that she serve a term of three years probation.

Manglona asked Pua if she had anything to say before sentence is pronounced, but attorney Mark Hanson, co-counsel of Petersburg, stated that their client, for purposes of appeal, was advised not to make any statements at this time.

Due to Pua's minor child, the prosecution agreed to have the defendant remain at liberty pending the designation of a prison facility.

Last July 31, a federal jury found Pua guilty of the charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States.

In 2005, Pua obtained a legal permanent resident status after marrying Juan Pua, a U.S. citizen. After the indictment was filed, she was arrested in Guam, where she is staying.

Pua's co-defendants Norma F. Nekaifes and Benigno Mettao both pleaded guilty. Nekaifes and Mettao were sentenced to three years of probation.

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MONK

From Page 1

ligions including Catholicism, Christianity, Hinduism. I was once even atheist, agnostic. Every religious practice, every spiritual practice I have been part of, I didn't feel like I was…it was like being hungry and drinking water to ease that hunger," Palacios said.

"I always searched for myself in religion. All of them worked and all of them were good until they weren't. And that's when I was left hungry and wanting more," he added.

Even before entering monkhood, Palacios has been following the Buddhist way of life.

"I started teaching myself Buddhism four years ago and I started with Japanese Buddhism, Chinese, and then Tibetan Buddhism," Palacios said.

"It was through that that I started finding, well, all of these religions, all I found relate to the outside world. I want something that's going to help me with the inside world, in my mind, in my heart," he added.

Coming full circle, Palacios was reminded by her mom just a couple of weeks ago how the goal of becoming a monk has been with him since he was little.

"She said, 'When you were 4, we were in Thailand and you saw monks and you looked at your grandfather and you said when I grew up I'm going to be a monk.'"

However, the path wasn't always easy for Palacios.

"I have always been the person that whatever I wanted, I did. And I have by no means been a saint all my life. My 10 years were riddled with drug abuse, alcohol abuse, I was homeless. And the most exciting part of that is that I even lived as a trans, a pre-op trans as a female. I was actually on my way to get surgery," Palacios said.

Palacios was eventually talked out of his decision to get sex reassignment surgery and it was then that he quit drugs and alcohol abuse.

Later on, Palacios went through the process of healing and forgiveness

"I actually had to work through forgiveness which was the reason why I went into the drug abuse, it was because of childhood stuff that I went through," Palacios said, "Just a lot of things that I never imagined a child going through."

"The spiritual path, the spiritual journey has been about healing and forgiveness," he added.

Being a Buddhist monk required many things that Palacios had to give up such as eating beyond 12pm and having their own clothes down to having desires as they believe desires lead to suffering.

However, being a "modern" monk, he is allowed to keep certain things that he had before entering monkhood as long as it doesn't interfere with his path.

"We believe we have enough. And if we're supposed to have more, it will come to us," Palacios said.

As a Buddhist, Palacios clarifies that they don't doubt the existence of God but that God has other things to take care of.

"We don't have much to do with [war, starvation] unless we're there. That's not to say that it doesn't compassion or our loving kindness to it because as long as I have peace in me there is no war in the world. Anytime I think of war thoughts, I contribute to war," Palacios said.

As Buddhism is not a religion but a way of life, Palacios also said that some Buddhists, including himself, still follow their own religions. To a certain extent, he believes in fate.

"I believe that the way that things are, are the way they're supposed to be. But I also believe that I could control my words and my actions to make that work out for me or to make that work against me," Palacios said.

One wisdom that Palacios imparted is the importance of mindfulness in our everyday lives.

"All of us, we find the world so stressful because we're thinking of the past or worried of the future and nobody knows how to live in the moment. But the moment wants nothing from you. The moment just wants you to be present," Palacios said.

To share something to the public, Palacios will hold a meditation session for the public tomorrow at 5am at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. Those who wish to attend could wear comfortable clothes and bring their mats.

Palacios is set to leave Saipan this Thursday.

LIVE-FIRE

From Page 1

The open-air dump sits on ACG's vast Puntan Diablo property and presents a hurdle for them to get their $1.2-billion investment realized.

"It is a dump, it is an open dump," Lin said. "To us, it's been an issue for the past two years, but for the people of Tinian, it's been an issue for the past 45 years.

"We want to cap the dump properly in order for our resort and develop to happen on our site. How can we call it a world class resort with an open dump?"

Lin emphasized the issue was to cap the dump in a proper way.

San Nicolas said they would be receiving a report from the U.S. Marines on landfill study.

"But we need to know what the actual cost of shipping trash to Saipan will be. It is the military who took that task," San Nicolas said.

"We will be discussing the issue of costs of transferring garbage," he added.

He acknowledged the dump was a two-side problem of capping the dump and transferring its waste. "But taking it from Tinian and shipping it, we don't have the numbers as of yet."

Military issues

On the issue of the U.S military, Lin said they are creating easement roads for the U.S military to travel on.

Lin wants to make clear to military officials that they are "here to stay" and to bring a world-class resort to Tinian. "We want to co-exist with the military," he said, referring to the military's live-fire training plans on the island.

Asked if his comments meant they were backing off their strongly worded written comments they submitted on these intensive live-fire plans, Lin said, no.

"The truth is—anybody with a mindset of a 10-year-old will know that—you are not going have peace, tranquility, and a world class resort next to a bombshell. This is just a fact.

"It is a risk for us as investors," he added.

Lin said they want to sit down and urge the military to reconsider.

HEALTH

From Page 1

Health officials yesterday told *Saipan Tribune* that they strengthened their response and surveillance on the virus that can be transmitted through mosquito bites.

"Right now we don't have any [cases] but we strengthened our surveillance," CHCC public health and hospital preparedness director Warren Villagomez said.

"We just got a notice today that there are more efforts from healthcare providers and systems seeing that the Zika virus, the Dengue, the Chikungunya, you have all these. Obviously there is always a threat. We need to strengthen our response," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said.

Zika virus is a single-stranded RNA virus and is transmitted to humans primarily through the bite of an infected *Aedes* species mosquito, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The mosquito vectors typically breed in domestic water-holding containers; are aggressive daytime biters and feed both indoors and outdoors near dwellings.

CDC said the symptoms of Zika virus are similar dengue but is more severe. These includes fever, rash, joint pain, or conjunctivitis (red eyes). Other common symptoms include muscle pain and headache.

The incubation period for Zika virus disease is not known, but is likely to be a few days to a week. Zika virus usually remains in the blood of an infected person for a few days but it can be found longer in some people.

"The only way to stop it is to stop the spreading of mosquitoes," Muna said.

She added that the virus is not a new infection and has actually been in existence but there is no vaccine yet for the virus.

"It's not an epidemic yet. You obviously have a case here and there and we just need to be able to make sure that it doesn't become one," Muna said.

"We already have one U.S. territory, Puerto Rico, that was infected," she added, citing that it is due to the closeness of the territory to the origin of the virus.

Villagomez said they were given advice to use some funding from Ebola to prepare for Zika.

"We were advised to utilize some supplemental funding that we got from Ebola to prepare for Zika in all different aspects from surveillance, to risk communication, possible transportation of off-island samples in the event that we have a suspected case," Villagomez said

They are in constant contact with Hawaii and the region's epidemiology center in Guam.

"We're doing everything we can right now," Villagomez said, "We're reaching out and making sure that our critical sentinel points are advised about this disease and if anything kind of triggers we will be notified."

Aside from monitoring people who are coming in on island, CHCC and the Division of Public Health are addressing the need for prevention through eliminating possible areas where mosquitoes might breed.

"The teams are going out for village inspections. We're sending out the advisory for the rainy season and mosquitoes, and what to do," DPH director Margaret Aldan said.

CHCC will also be releasing soon public notices regarding the virus and how the general community can help with the prevention.

"CDC updates their guidance. We want to make sure that we have an updated guidance and we will issue out a statement, a notice, basically just warning and in the meantime we're monitoring the areas where there's absolutely a chance, a risk of mosquitoes," Muna said.

One of the main concerns in being infected by the virus is its severe impact on pregnant women.

Women in Brazil who have contracted the virus during pregnancy were linked to having children who have microcephaly or smaller head circumference which usually results from abnormal brain development.

Because of this, Muna advises pregnant women to continue monitoring their babies.

"Do not skip prenatal checkups because you never know what's happening. Maybe you never felt that bite. But the bottom line is you really need to get prenatal checkups and monitor the progress of your baby," Muna said.

Health officials also warned about using aspirin as it may cause inflammation if you have the virus.

Should a possible Zika virus infection be reported in the CNMI, health officials said it has to be confirmed first before the treatment process begins.

"You need to send the specimen. The sample will be collected through a serum and it gets sent to a U.S.-referenced laboratory. That's going to be the determination of treatment course," Villagomez said.

TORRES

From Page 1

public utility financing, according to an administration official yesterday, who also disclosed that Torres' trip was funded on the Governor's Office account, and that the governor would return to Saipan on Wednesday.

CUC board chair Adelina Roberto also joined him on the trip, according to the Office of the Governor.

It's not immediately clear if other CUC board members joined Torres on the trip.

In a letter dated Jan. 24, 2016, Torres wrote to the CUC board to invite chair Roberto and CUC board members to accompany him to Suva, Fiji, to meet with the Fiji Electricity Authority to discuss "financing options" that may be applicable for the future developments of Saipan's utility.

These "financing options" were not elaborated on further in the letter.

CUC chief financial officer Matthew Yaquinto, who has an extensive background in the management of utility finances in prior international positions, is not part of the trip to Fiji. When contacted, Yaquinto declined to comment.

Torres said with the expected increase in demand caused by continuing economic development in the islands, "now is the right time to envision the next steps to ensuring sustainable and adequate power generating capabilities."

"This meeting will assist the board and the administration in laying this important groundwork," Torres said.

Board member David Sablan, though, told *Saipan Tribune* that he did not know about the trip and that it was never discussed among the board. "We never discussed about this in any of our meetings," Sablan said.

If the governor invited the board members to the trip, Sablan said that it is "inherent" to the chair to decline and say that they can't go as a quorum.

"I don't believe that it is necessary for the entire board to go there," Sablan said, "It should just be the chair and CUC should pay for it."

"If I was invited, I would explain to the governor that we are already in discussion regarding the [integrated resource plan]."

Sablan did not recall seeing a copy of the letter.

Sablan said he is curious to know what Fiji has to do with CUC.

Sablan was only alerted to the issue when he received a memo saying that fellow director Albert Taitano was named acting chair. Sablan said he questioned the memo, asking what had happened to vice chair Eric San Nicolas and secretary Chris Concepcion—who were supposed to be acting in the event that the chair wasn't around—according to CUC bylaws.

Sablan points out that even treasurer Joe Torres—although not in the line of succession—wasn't appointed as acting.

Calls to board members San Nicolas and Concepcion were not immediately returned as of press time.

A former CUC chair, Sablan also questioned that if there are indeed four members of the board on the trip, why was there a need for four members to go on the trip? This number would constitute a quorum, and may be a violation of the Open Government Act.

Sablan also raised the question of who is going to pay for the trip. While Sablan said that CUC should pay for their own trip expenses, as they are an "autonomous, revenue-generating" agency, the board never discussed the trip during their meetings.

"We must pay and it should be decided by the board," Sablan said, "None of it was discussed."

Should the trip be paid by the Office of the Governor, Sablan said, the Office of the Attorney General should look into it as they are an autonomous body.

Sablan said he would oppose—if members who were on the trip—say that CUC should pay for its costs.

TO LEARN JUSTICE SYSTEM, HISTORY

Two former Japan judges and lawyer tour Judicial Complex

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two former judges in Japan and a lawyer, who are all frequent visitors of Saipan, toured the Judicial Complex in Susupe yesterday.

"I am interested [about] Saipan and the Northern Marianas' justice system and history," said Takashi Kamura, who is a former judge and now a long-time practicing private lawyer in Tokyo.

Kamura said he likes traveling to study the history of every region in the world.

It is his sixth visit to Saipan. His last visit was four years ago, in which at that time he was fortunate to watch high school students competing in a mock trial.

Kamura said he wants to watch the mock trial again, but his group has to go back to Japan last night. The group arrived on Saturday.

Kamura was with former judge and now practicing private attorney Kazunobu Takai and attorney Yukiko Shimizu.

Takai became a member of the Upper House or senator from 1989 to 1994. Shimizu is currently running a law firm in Tokyo composed of all female lawyers.

Kamura also tagged along his law firm's two employees.

Kamura said it's Takai's fifth visit to Saipan, while it's Shimizu's fourth.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman's law clerk, Conrad Ohashi, and deputy clerk, Patrick Diaz, guided the group's tour of the House of Justice's facilities.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Former Japan judges and now practicing private lawyers Takashi Kamura and Kazunobu Takai, third and fourth from left, pose in front of the House of Justice in Susupe after their tour of the Judiciary's facilities yesterday. Also in the photo are attorney Yukiko Shimizu, second from left, and two employees of Kamura's law firm.

Johnson on HPU's Dean's List

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Johnson

The Hawaii Pacific University recently recognized the academic achievements of Michael Emil K. Johnson, earning him a spot on the college's Dean's List.

The 18-year-old Johnson, the son of Ed and Melia, was born and raised on Saipan graduating at Saipan International School in 2014. He has Hawaiian, Chamorro, and Carolinian blood.

Johnson, who is also an alumnus of Marianas High School, is now on his second semester in his freshman year at HPU. He has been attending his classes in HPU's Honolulu and Kaneohe campuses where he's taking up Business Administration majoring in International Business.

HPU provost and vice president for Academic Affairs Matthew Liao-Troth, in a letter dated Jan. 19, informed Johnson of his academic achievement for the Fall 2015 semester.

HPU recognizes its undergraduate students who have earned a 3.5 grade point average or higher by including their names on the Dean's List.

"Congratulations on your achievement. Just as Hawaii Pacific University has assumed a position of leadership in the academic community, you have proven yourself to be one of our most excellent students. We wish you continued distinction and success in your academic studies with us," Liao-Troth said in the letter.

The award will also be printed on Johnson's official HPU transcript once he finishes his course. His academic performance also qualifies him to be accepted in an honor society.

Johnson, when on Saipan, works as one of the parasailing crew in Managaha earning him his sea time as he also tries to earn his commercial captain's license. He also plays the ukulele.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-ZB-015

SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 26, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE ZONING BOARD OFFICE"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER, JANUARY 26, 2016 AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. DIEGO C. BLANCO, CHAIRMAN, COMMONWEALTH ZONING BOARD, CALLER BOX 10007, SAIPAN, MP 96950 AND DELIVERED TO THE ZONING BOARD OFFICE ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, SAIPAN NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 12, 2016.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DIEGO C. BLANCO
CHAIRMAN, ZONING BOARD

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

AS COURT JUDGMENTS VS CNMI BALLOONS TO $27M

Dotts: Govt that don't pay court judgments lawless

A government that will not pay court judgments against it is lawless, according to attorney Michael Dotts.

"A government that does not respect the law will lose the support of the people, and the people cannot be expected to behave any better than their government," Dotts said.

Dotts expressed his position on unpaid court judgments in a supplemental brief filed in Superior Court as counsel for couple Timothy Cruz and Jotonia B. Aguon, and Gorjonny Camacho in two separate lawsuits against the CNMI government.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a $35,000 judgment over the death of their child during delivery in 2012 at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Camacho is holding a $10,000 judgment against the government for his medical malpractice lawsuit.

The 18th Legislature acknowledged that 17 judgments against the government totaling over $27 million have not been paid.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last December invited the CNMI Legislature, the Office of the Governor-Office of Management and Budget, and the Department of Finance to submit briefs or declarations over the government's failure to pay a judgment of $35,000 and $10,000 that were entered as a settlement in the two lawsuits.

Dotts said the only solution to the problem is the constitution and the court.

Dotts said the people, through their constitution, required this government to have a balanced budget.

He said a balanced budget does not ignore court0entered judgments; a balanced budget provides for their payment.

The people's constitution, the lawyer pointed out, invested the Superior Court with the power to ensure the other branches of government complied with the mandates of the CNMI Constitution.

"This court has the authority, and the moral responsibility, to require the other branches to balance the budget and pay the judgments entered against the Commonwealth," Dotts said.

Dotts cited that the budgets for the fiscal years of 1981 to 1983 all contained appropriations for paying judgments against the government.

After the constitutional amendment was adopted in 1985, the practice of including paying off existing judgments in a budget as an outlay continued, said Dotts, citing that for FY 1987, $16,000 and $11,000 were appropriated for two civil actions.

However, Dotts said, when the economy of the CNMI began to falter, the practice of paying judgments and other obligations ended.

Dotts contended that the 2016 budget is out of balance.

He said the Executive Branch was required to submit to the Legislature obligations, including all judgments and a schedule for their payment over the next fiscal year.

"This was not done," said Dotts, adding such inactions have occurred for many years beginning in the late 1990's.

The result, he said, has been an ever-growing deficit since the late 1990s, that now likely eclipses the ability of the government to address in a single fiscal year.

Dotts said had a balanced budget been implemented as required from the beginning, the problem with the NMI Retirement Fund would never have occurred.

Dotts said had balanced budgets been passed as required since 1985, when the people placed the requirement for them in their constitution, the failure to pay land compensation that has resulted in huge unpaid judgments that accrue interest would not have happened. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Zoning OKs height increase for Grand Mariana

The Commonwealth Zoning Board approved on Thursday the request of Best Sunshine International Ltd. to increase by six and a half feet the height of its Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort project at the Samoan Housing in Garapan.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro said that, in its zoning variance application, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC requested for an increase to the height of the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort to 292 feet from the previous 285.4 feet due to soil condition at the site.

Ogumoro said Best Sunshine's engineers discovered that soil or ground condition warrants them to increase the height a little bit due to shallowness and strength of the ground.

Ogumoro said Best Sunshine did not request for other further changes to the 373 rooms and 296 parking spaces that the Zoning Board had previously approved.

At the hearing, no one made a comment from either the public or Best Sunshine.

Board member Joe Ayuyu Jr. moved to adopt the amendment to increase the height of the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort by six feet and six inches.

Board members Ayuyu, Bruce Bateman, and Herman Sablan approved the request. Board chair Diego Blanco recused from the matter for conflict of interest.

Best Sunshine did not say how much it will cost for this additional six feet and six inches.

In its previous request to increase the number of rooms and height, and decrease the parking spaces, Best Sunshine claimed it is pouring in $25 million in order to build additional 119 rooms, bringing to a total number of 373 rooms at the cost of $190 million for their Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort project.

Last October, the Zoning Board unanimously approved Imperial Pacific's request to amend its previous conditional use permit in order to increase the number of rooms for the project, increase the height, and decrease the parking spaces. Imperial Pacific is the mother company of Best Sunshine.

Imperial Pacific then proposed to increase to 119 rooms from the original plan of 254 rooms; decrease by 127 the 254 parking lots; and increase the building's height by 50.47 feet.

The Grand Mariana's structure includes beachfront villas, pools, and two casino floors. The slab tower is 14 stories high with a total height of 285'-4" feet above. The total gross floor area is 1,219,495 square feet.

Grand Mariana is Phase 1 of Best Sunshine's $7.1-billion integral casino resort plan in the CNMI.

At the Zoning Board hearing last October, Best Sunshine chief operating officer Matt Harkness said what they have seen is that there is really a dynamic development that occurs in the airlines and hotel industry.

Harkness said airlines want to bring more flights into "this little known place" and that the only way to increase the frequency of flights for the people coming to the island is by increasing the number of hotel rooms.

Harkness said the efficient way to do with their project is to add 119 mountain-view rooms without changing the structure's blueprints. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Delivery Driver (5)

Classification: Full Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Part Time, Non-Exempt, less than 32 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports To: Manager In Charge (MIC) / Dispatcher

Summary of Responsibilities
Delivers customer's order in a timely and safe manner within accordance of Pizza Hut guidelines and compliance with State and Federal traffic laws.

Essential Functions
- Drives competently and complies with all traffic laws.
- Delivers products in a timely manner with accuracy and courteousness.
- Collects checks, cash or credit card slips to properly tender order.
- Performs secondary duties such as washing dishes, cleaning, prep and cooking duties.
- Keeps car and work area clean and organized throughout shift.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be at least 18 years of age. Must possess a valid CNMI driver's license with a minimum of 2 years driving experience. Must have an acceptable driving record. Must provide own insured vehicle for deliveries. Able to read and follow road maps. Must be able to speak, read, write and understand English. Must be able to communicate clearly, courteously and efficiently with customers.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for a minimum of four hours. Requires driving, standing and walking for most of the workday. Must be able to lift 25 lbs. occasionally.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

Dough Scaler & Mixer (2)

Classification: Full-Time, Non-Exempt, 32-40 hours per week
Department: Operations
Reports to: Manager In Charge (MIC)

Summary of Responsibilities
Prepares the pizza dough every morning to use throughout the day.

Essential Functions
- Responsible fo dough preparedness as prescribed from manager In Charge
- Complies with all portioning, quality standards, rules, policies, and safety procedures
- Selects and transports raw items to work are and back. Stores finished products in proper places
- Selects proper equipment and utensils to prepare as procedure require – dough mixer, whips, pitcher, proofer, bun-o-matic, retarder and dough roller.

Other Functions
Performs other duties as assigned

Abilities, Knowledge, and Skills
Must be able to work the opening shift. Able to understand and implement written and verbal instructions. Must possess basic math skills.

Required Experience
Previous bakery experience required.

Education/Experience
High school diploma required.

Physical and/or Medical Requirements
Must obtain a Tuberculosis Clearance Certificate. Position requires well-paced mobility for minimum periods minimum of four hours. Requires standing and walking for the entire workday. Must be able to bend and stoop occasionally. Must be able to occasionally lift 40 lbs. Must have sensory capabilities to select quality of sauce. Must have finger dexterity to use some utensil tools.

Working Conditions
Minimal hazards. General restaurant working conditions.

EMPLOYER'S RIGHTS: *This job description does not list all the duties of the job. You may be asked by your supervisors or managers to perform other duties. You will be evaluated in part based upon your performance of the tasks listed in this job description. The employer has the right to revise this job description at any time. The job description is not a contract for employment, and either you or the employer may terminate employment at any time, for any reason.*

All interested applicants may get application at Pizza Hut Restaurant in Gualo Rai
Closing Date: February 5, 2016

Commonwealth Zoning Board

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Enforcement Staff

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Technician. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct field surveys, collect land use information, prepare and serve notices of violation and other compliance documents, write follow-up notices, maintain enforcement database and files, prepare reports, and perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Background experience in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, building codes, or related field, or a minimum of 2 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $25,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Mr. Yubert Alepuyo, Zoning Enforcement Officer. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be obtained from our office. Send submittals to: E-mail: Yubert.Alepuyo@zoning.gov.mp, FAX: 670-234-9666, US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA, or by Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is February 18th, 2016 at 4:30pm.

Commonwealth Zoning Board

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Zoning Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Zoning Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Process permit applications including reviewing applications for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations; Conduct field surveys to inspect compliance with the Zoning Law and to collect land use information; Educate and inform the public and applicants about the zoning program and permit requirements; Conduct inspections, application assessments, and serve notices of violations as authorized by the Zoning Administrator; Gather information to update the GIS; Maintain detailed records of all actions, using paper and electronic media; Update permit information on the database; Other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements: Graduation from an accredited two-year college or university with an AA Degree. The following professional experience may substitute for the AA Degree: A minimum of 3 years of experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, public administration, public health, business management, public policy, natural resource management, environmental management, land management, or related field; Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Explorer. Other desired experiences include ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain; Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing; Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends; Ability to speak in Chamorro or Carolinian a plus. Applicant must have a valid CNMI Driver's License.

The salary is $28,000.00. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp. Application submittals should be addressed to Theresa T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application for Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Please Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp or by Hand Delivery to Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

The deadline to receive applications and all requirements is Monday, February 15th, 2016 at 4:30pm.

SCA to hold free adoption weekend

The Saipan Cares for Animals has scheduled a Free Adoption Weekend on Feb. 6 and 7 at the animal shelter in Lower Base. It will be a whole day affair with more than 30 dogs up for adoption,

SCA president Jason Hudy said with the spay and neuter program ending tomorrow, they had put for adoption dogs who underwent the procedure. Guam veterinarians Dr. Jennifer Landis and technician Bambi Leone has been assisting local animal volunteers and staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Control Office with the spay and neuter program.

More than 100 dogs have been either spayed or neutered since Landis and Leone arrived on Saipan last month.

"Now that all of our dogs are sterilized SCA will pay for your adoption [fee] for [this] weekend only. We're going to have a "Free Adoption Weekend" on Saturday and Sunday [Feb. 6 and 7]. We are going to tie this in with the end of the spay and neuter clinic," said Hudy.

JON PEREZ

The animal shelter in lower base needs immediate repairs after the roof and walls were torn off by Typhoon Soudelor last Aug. 2.

Hudy added that they decided to hold the Free Adoption Weekend to reduce the number of dogs at the Shelter, which is awaiting renovation and other repair after Typhoon Soudelor tore its roof and parts of its walls.

Volunteers have been taking care of the dogs by regularly feeding and giving them medicine. The volunteers along with the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office's Animal Control Office also put up tents and covered the cages with tarp to keep the animals dry especially when it rains.

"The real reason we are doing this is we are over capacity with the number of dogs we have. Dogs keep coming in, so we want to have a major adoption push," said Hudy.

The Saipan Mayor's Office is waiting for the completion of the needed paperwork in order to begin the bidding process for the Animal Shelter renovation project. Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider, in an earlier interview, said that the condition of the animal shelter is like building a new one.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded $300,000 for the repair of the animal shelter, which is near the estimate that the Saipan Mayor's Office submitted when they applied for the public assistance program. The CNMI central government would release FEMA's monetary aid.

Rodney Babauta, Lee Mark Deleon Guerrero, Ton Leon Guerrero and Jaime Toytoy are the staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Control Office. They have been patrolling the streets and catching stray dogs. ***(Jon Perez)***

Whispering Palms' Wine and Tapas fundraiser a success

It was a good night. Hyatt Regency Poolside saw Whispering Palms School's guests arrive Friday for the 6th Annual Wine and Tapas fundraiser. Smiles were everywhere as people saw the tastefully lit venue sparkling with the water and the stars above aided by the cool wind.

Finger food and delicious whites and reds provided by Pacific Trading Corp. delighted all the guests. More than 200 Whispering Palms supporters and friends came to enjoy the evening of conversation and good company at this sold-out event.

There was an unprecedented number of silent auction items ranging from hotel rooms from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, maintenance package from Atkins Kroll, meal certificates, Lego sets from Lollipops, Gold's Gym memberships, artwork from Greg Elliott and Nadia Richards, as well as rounds of golf with tennis and golf lessons to name just a few.

Adding more fun, guests rose to play "heads or tails" to win a lunch for two at Miyako.

A group of Department of Public Safety police officers, headed by officer Roy Kaipat, graced the evening by bringing their ukuleles and guitars to entertain the group after a grueling day of performing security detail for the former South Korean president, Lee Myung-bak. Their performance added class and a bit of local flavor to the evening.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the event was the live auction items. The first up for bids was the Skydive. Young and old cheered on as the bids soared. The final bid was for $450. Everyone was imagining themselves drifting from the skies. SkyDive Saipan generously donated the exciting item.

The painting by Elina Gharti from Everest Kitchen was up next. Lisa McWilliams, Angie Mister, Kuen-Hee Han, the coordinators of the evening, hand-carried the painting around every table for guests to view. The beautiful piece entitled "It's a New Day Ahead" captures the spirit of Saipan as a thoughtful reflection to Typhoon Soudelor with its crushing waves and peaceful sunset. The starting bid was for $300. With Brad Ruszala as the live auction emcee, every eye and ear were geared toward the next high bid. Just when the bidding seemed to have reached a plateau, another would be made.

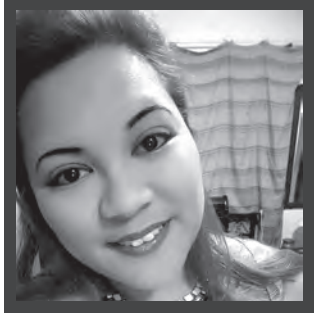
The final bid was for an amazing $1,000. The most amazing part was to come next. A group of doctors and patrons of Everest Kitchen, bid for the painting to give it back to the restaurant. It was a show of true American spirit and generosity that may only be witnessed on Saipan.

Good feelings were shared by all. Everest Kitchen and Whispering Palms School have been friends since the inception of the restaurant and the relationship seemed well seared in the turn of events.

Conversations seemed to find no end as guests bought their share of wine and started competing for the final bids on the silent auction items. Another gentleman made a singular bid on Derrick Cutting's Bootcamp membership and also returned it to Whispering Palms School. It was a good night for Whispering Palms School and family.

Whispering Palms is one of the oldest private schools on the island overlooking the lagoon on Navy Hill. It is a small non-denominational school.***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 25th birthday to our oldest daughter, Martinie Josie S. Calvo. We love and miss you very much. We'll see you soon. Enjoy your day. Love Dad, Mom, and siblings

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPY • CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP16-COTA/FTA-046

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PREPARATION, DESIGN AND LAYOUT OF THE 2015 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY (COTA)"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 26, 2016 AT COTA OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR OF THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND BUILDING LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; PROPOSERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL IF, IN ITS OPINION TO DO SO, WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP: RFP16-CHCC/CGC-001

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 09, 2016 **TIME: 10:00 AM**

"EVALUATION SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION, COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE LOCATED AT DR. JOSE T. VILLAGOMEZ CENTER, CHALAN HINEMLO ROAD, LOWER NAVYHILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ JESUS BABAUTA
ACTING DIRECTOR OF P&S

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs. Monkhon K. Palacios, who is a resident of Guam, was in Saipan visiting her family to join them in the celebration of her granddaughter's birthday. On the night of January 29, 2016, as she was driving around with her children, she noticed that the Mobil Gas Station in Kagman was selling Instant Scratchies tickets. She pulled in to purchase some tickets for the fun of the game, and to try her luck. Mrs. Palacios was so surprised when she saw that she had won $1000.00. Congratulations and good luck to all!

NMI Masons install 2016 officers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pepe R. Crisostomo was installed as Emon Lodge No. 179's Worshipful Master of the Free and Accepted Masons that held their 25th Annual Installation of elected and appointed officers for Masonic year 2016-2017 last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Very Worshipful Master Ramoncito B. Piana, a past District Deputy Grand Master, was the installing officer while VW Roger Rebanal, DDGM Guam MD Overseas A, served as master of ceremonies.

Right Worshipful Grand Master Cliffton Clyabrooks, DDGM Prince Hall Lodge GL of Washington State, was the assistant master of ceremonies. Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and the Philippines' honorary consul to the CNMI Eli M. Arago were the special guests.

Crisostomo replaced VW Romeo D. Malasarte, who became an Immediate Past Master and is also the DDGM of Masonic District Overseas E.

Crisostomo, in his speech, said that he knows there are challenges ahead but he is confident that they could find solutions with the help of his brethren.

"I never planned to become a Worshipful Master but I thank the brethren who entrusted to me this position. I will rule and govern in all equality. Freemasonry is an ancient brotherhood that exist with important moral reasons," said Crisostomo.

Apatang congratulated Crisostomo and the other officers of Emon Lodge 179 in the hopes of continuing the Masons' goal of "making good men better."

"I give you my best wishes as you continue to carry your duties and responsibilities as a Freemason. Every person's job is to help others and the process of being a better person has no stop sign. It is a continuous process," added Apatang.

JON PEREZ

Newly installed Worshipful Master Pepe R. Crisostomo, fourth right, joins Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, third right, honorary consul to the Philippines Eli Arago, fifth right, visiting Grand Masters, and Emon Lodge No. 179 officers for a group photo after his installation last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Arago thanked Emon Lodge No. 179 members as they also help out in activities of the Philippine Consulate here in the CNMI.

"It is my first time to speak in an organization composed by honorable brethren. Freemasonry is the foundation of good community leaders and their solid system stood the test of time. Let us continue and strengthen our partnership towards a better Commonwealth," Arago said.

Melvn De Monteverde (senior warden); Arnel A. Metran (junior warden) VW Wilfredo G. Ching, PM (secretary); VW Casiano M. Bostre, PM (treasurer); and VW Daniel E. Banez, PM (auditor) are the other elected officers.

Joel I. Subang (senior deacon), Saturnino C. Alciso III (junior deacon), Wendell Mary Posadas (senior steward), Sonny Pestana (junior steward), Sonny Pablo (almoner), Pepito O. Reyes (chaplain), Valentin Bolivar (lecturer), Joselito E. Espino (marshal), VW Victor G. Brana (orator), Carlos Eslaban (organist), and Ronnie Ano (tyler) are the appointed officers.

Liberation Day slogan contest opens

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Individuals who want to join the slogan contest for the 2016 Liberation Day Festivities can start submitting their entries today with the deadline of submission set on Feb. 29.

This year's theme and the 500-word essay must center on the 71st anniversary of World War II in the CNMI, the impact to the survivors, and how it shaped the people of the CNMI.

"Entries in the slogan competition must reflect that theme. The purpose of being liberated and the life of the CNMI people after the war," said Liberation Day chair Christopher Leon Guerrero.

Last year, Jihan Buniag's "Peace in Diversity" was the winning slogan earning her $500. The winning entry will also win $500 this year.

Names of those who will be joining will be taken out once judging starts to avoid conflicts of interest to the panel that will be tasked to select this year's slogan.

The winning slogan will be printed on all Liberation Day promotional materials, including the tickets to be sold for the Liberation Day Royal Court, paraphernalia, and banners.

JON PEREZ

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, left, enjoys a light moment with Skywalker Communications Group managing director Dr. Hu Bo and 2016 CNMI Liberation Day Festivities chair Christopher Leon Guerrero in their meeting last Friday held at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said they decided to start early to give the contestants more time to prepare and the committees to make adjustments in planning the festivities.

"We have already assembled the committees that are working on the proposed activities for the 2016 Liberation Day Festivities. We again thank the Skywalker [Communications] Group for their commitment to partner with us," added Apatang.

Skywalker managing director Dr. Hu Bo said they never considered a short-term partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Office with the Liberation Day Festival.

"The Liberation Day festivities are for the CNMI people and we vowed to be part of it every year. We are always happy for our contribution to the festival. We are looking at a commitment of multiple years. We will be a part of it a long time," said Bo.

NAP has new phone numbers

The Nutrition Assistance Program is switching from the centranet phone system to the ESI-100 Communications Server System.

The general public is advised to please take note of the new phone numbers.

- Main line: 237-2800
- Retail and redemption unit: 237-2820
- Management evaluation unit: 237-2830
- Administration unit: 237-2840
- Accounting: 237-2850

The following units are still with the centranet system and utilize the old phone numbers. The units will eventually switch to the new phone system as soon as installation of lines is completed.

- Certification unit: 664-2805 to 2809/2822
- Benefit issuance and claims unit: 664-2810 to 664-2813/2821

Additionally, the following units have moved from the ground floor to the 2nd floor of the JTV Building in As Lito. Please take note of the Room Number assignments.

- Accounting: Room 2A
- Administration unit: Room 2B
- Conference Room: Room 2C
- Management evaluation unit: Room 2D
- Retail and redemption unit: Room 2E

The program seeks the understanding of the public due to these recent changes. ***(PR)***

GHLI renews health policy with AETNA

The Government Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund renewed its group health policy with AETNA International. The 2016 Policy is effective Jan. 1, 2016 through Dec. 31, 2016.

The premium rates under the 2016 Policy have changed and are set forth below. Open enrollment begins Feb. 1, 2016, and closes Feb. 29, 2016. If you wish to make changes in your coverage, you must do so during this period. The premium rates and any changes in the enrollment will take effect Jan. 1, 2016.

We are pleased to present a third plan option called the "Basic Plan." This plan is similar to the Low Plan but has a higher deductible. The contributions from employees and retirees for 2016 for this plan are very affordable.

2016 PREMIUM RATES

26 Pay Periods

Active Government Contributions

	High Plan	Low Plan	Basic Plan
Employee	$86.64	$27.67	$2.39
Employee+Spouse	$177.63	$56.66	$4.84
Employee+Family	$277.23	$88.52	$7.63

24 Pay Periods

Government Retirees

	High Plan	Low Plan	Basic Plan
Employee	$93.86	$29.98	$2.59
Employee+Spouse	$192.43	$61.39	$5.24
Employee+Family	$300.34	$95.90	$8.27

Please be informed that Open Enrollment for health insurance will give all retirees and active government employees the opportunity to do the following:

- If you are an active employee and not currently covered by AETNA, you may apply for coverage for you and your dependents. Retirees are not able to enroll if they previously declined enrollment when first eligible or emailed as of the settlement date. New retirees are able to enroll within the specified time from their retirement date.
- If you are currently covered by AETNA and do not wish to make any changes you DO NOT need to re-enroll, coverage will remain the same.
- If you are currently covered by AETNA, but wish to make changes, you will need to fill out an enrollment/change form.
- If you are currently covered by AETNA but want to terminate coverage, you must complete an enrollment/change request form.

A representative from Aetna International will be on-island Feb. 2-4 to conduct meetings in the Multipurpose Center.

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters is the Resident General Agent for Aetna in the CNMI and will assist during the Open Enrollment period. Enrollment/Change request forms are available at their office and their staff will be available to answer questions and assist members completing the forms. Please submit completed forms no later than 4:30pm March 1, 2016. Enrollments and changes selected during Open Enrollment will take effect Jan. 1, 2016. ***(PR)***

Special Advertising Feature

The Success of Best Sunshine International's Corporate Social Responsibility and Its Valuable Contribution to Beautifying the Islands

Madame Margaret Cui Lijie, second right, majority shareholder of Imperial Pacific Ltd. is flanked by Eli Cabrera, director of Parks & Recreation, Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and Best Sunshine CSR director Geli Dela Cruz.

Precinct 3 Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro with Madame Cui of Imperical Pacific Ltd.

Another supporter of the company's corporate social responsibility work is Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao of Precinct 3 who greeted Madame Cui during Friday evening's Village Pride Project.

A throng of community supporters of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. enjoy the cultural performance during Friday evening's Village Pride Project at the Carolinian Utt.

A volunteer sign-up and registration booth has been set up to encourage volunteers to be involved in Best Sunshine's Village Pride projects.

Residents from Garapan and Gualo Rai gather together to enjoy the food and entertainment provided by BSI.

Madame Cui is joined by Rep. Vinnie Sablan of Precinct 4, who personally lauded the CSR team as "the best division of Best Sunshine." The lawmaker encouraged BSI to further "continue promoting volunteerism from all other villages and that they will be able to incorporate that in Village Pride gatherings to shed more light on the importance of volunteerism."

Three pavilions at the 13 Fishermen monument were given a fresh coat of paint after being water-blasted and cleaned by Best Sunshine International's Corporate Social Responsibility team. This kind of work of BSI's CSR team has transformed the island's aging and deteriorating public facilities into its old glory. Above is the before shot of one of the pavilions. Below is the after shot.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Oregon protesters are solely responsible for tragic outcome

The unlawful armed occupation of a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon could be close to ending. Or not. Such vigilante actions have a way of inspiring copycat protests elsewhere, often by militants who are more fanatical than their predecessors. So there could be more trouble just around the bend even if authorities are able to end the nearly monthlong seizure of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns, Ore.

The death of at least one militant and wounding of another in a shootout with law enforcement officers Tuesday is regrettable, but the protesters seemed to be prepared for this eventuality. In fact, they were inviting it. As soon as this Jan. 3 seizure escalated to armed confrontation, responsibility for any tragic conclusion rested solely with the extremists.

Protest leader Ammon Bundy, who was arrested in Tuesday's confrontation, always had it in his power to disarm and turn the symbolic occupation into an encampment-style protest — sort of a right-wing Occupy movement. That wouldn't have made his protest legal, but it certainly would have made it more palatable to those Americans who don't share the distorted view that government overreach requires a militia-style uprising.

Instead, Bundy and his supporters decided to make this a gun-rights stand on top of other ill-conceived demands that federal lands be ceded to private ranchers. This occupation mimicked a 2014 armed standoff at the Bundy Ranch in Nevada that arose over the family's disagreement with federal grazing-rights restrictions.

The protesters took on the mantle of lawless fanatics, initially using their guns to stand up for two men convicted of arson for having set fire to federal land and to hiding the fact that they had been poaching. Their message seemed to be that U.S. law was theirs to define, as though it were a smorgasbord from which citizens may pick and choose.

The gunmen defied local police and federal authorities to intervene. Local groups urged the protesters to end their siege. Law enforcers demonstrated extraordinary tolerance when Bundy and others would leave their encampment to travel, hold meetings or stock up on food. They pushed everyone's patience to the limit, and the time for an intervention was overdue.

Never once did they convey a desire to end this peacefully. Their taunting manner and threats to shoot law enforcers turned the protest into something more akin to a terrorist standoff than a fight for liberty.

The Bundy Ranch Facebook page describes the protesters as "peaceful patriots … supporting the Constitution" and asks, "Who are the terrorists?"

They were not peaceful. They were not patriots, and they were not supporting the Constitution. In our book, they are outlaws whose infliction of terror was never justified, regardless of the cause.

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Benedict, Cody, and Nate

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

I've got an acquaintance named Nate, easily a close friend were we in close geographical proximity but it is quite a distance between Houston, Texas and the Saipan lagoon. He and I joined others in reflective sessions at the Realistic Living Institute in Bonham, Texas in the last 10 years where we self-consciously lived a resurgent community life for a week twice a year, replicating the "spirit" methods we used among ourselves and in the communities where we resided. A couple came from Canada; I was normally solo off continent.

Methodist self-defrocked in 2004, I relate to the Jesus Christ heritage where there is corporate commitment to the reality of an unbalanced social process married to individual responsibility of earthrise consciousness and earthbound commitment.

My Texan friend Nate is a pleasant memory but the Nate of my current encounter is a comic strip character pasted on my refrigerator by an 8-year-old Cody who returned briefly to Pea Eye but used to occupy the premises. He moved to a unit closer to the gate. The 11-year-old cartoon strip character Big Nate is known for school detentions, and considers himself a renaissance man, a sarcastic genius that pester teachers, friends and kin.

Cody and his friends reminded me of my childhood in Sanchez Mira by the provincial road along the northern shores of Cagayan in the Philippines on the way to Claveria. I spent four years of childhood in the place before my father got into partisan politics. Under threat of his safety from slighted Pinoy machismo, his career moved us to the delta town of Aparri three river crossings away.

I was a happy-go-lucky kid. Eldest in a family of five, Pa hightailed it to graduate studies in Kentucky when I was 10 so I was propelled to adulthood "as the responsible eldest male in the family," an early role for which I am paying dearly with the delights of a second childhood, ah, but with lots of glee!

Cody who pasted the comic strip Big Nate on the refrigerator door was oblivious of any responsibility over the social milieu of his time, nor the pressure of defining his identity. Benedict, his friend of the same age, often stares at me at my office table next to the windowpane.

If I was propelled to adulthood by force of circumstances at an early age, contemporary children are driven, nay, thrust into a future that is already here—by an electronic tablet for a tool and a toy, games galore for the downloading, and Mama impelling her young to be at the top of ze class, often assisting with the child's homework so the child can leave the island on scholarship to a school of higher education that promises a lucrative paying job after finishing a Bachelor's degree.

Benedict brought three boys and a girl once to gawk at me at work, saying, "that's him!" The exclamatory looked is triggered by this column's tri-weekly printed picture. I seem to be a celebrity in his eyes.

Benedict is of Pinoy extract like Mia, the girl he brought along. He learned Chamorro in school, she, Chinese. He passed, she failed (her Dad is my auto parts manager); but the learning of a second language, failing or passing, can only be good to the brain. Brains can retain 24 languages but we tend to be dependent on a singular native tongue that is used when learning a second language. Besides, even Einstein used only 10 percent of total brain cells!

The education of babies starts early; forced into weekend tutorials to pick up English as a second language in China, though I think they would equally benefit in the calligraphy of Sinosphere's Hanguk/Chosun and Nippon, and the gutturals of Russia; Slava from Moscow in our Shenyang staff speaks impeccable English. Not a big surprise. The last Moscow Tsar was cousin to the British throne.

A China mother dragged her 3-year old to me so I could tutor him in English. On Mom's cue, the kid counted his numbers and recited his A-B-Cs to impress me. I promoted a pedagogy that hammered sound before the third level cognition of read-write meanings but I was ill prepared to structure a 3-year-old when he could be running freely around the street market naming products. Mom anxiously wants her boy to get to Princeton, Yale, or Harvard.

Back to my friend Nate whose multi-colored tomahawk haircut is an alternative mode, current to modish hair and accoutrements, he treads the pathway of ancients, medieval, and contemporaries in wrestling profoundly what it means to be human (once the province of theology until the Death-of-God death-knelled the field).

While theology has new metaphors, its archaic cosmology remains. Besides, theology is not our subject. Benedict, Cody, and Nate are—the gawking fellow, the comic strip paster and my fellow wayfarer on profound humanness. We tread on being ordinary humans.

Nate's lifestyle is hopeful. Benedict and Cody will broaden comic strip taste with age. This old man lives the sunset of his years at peace with Jaden Smith's skirts and dresses. We are fine!

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In Afghanistan, free-thinking school soldiers on

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Despite Taliban gains and the Islamic State's emergence in Afghanistan, one amazing Kabul school continues to teach 4,000 students (half girls) to think independently and to believe in tolerance.

The private Marefat school, along with its founder Aziz Royesh and several girl students, is the subject of Jeffrey Stern's moving new book, "The Last Thousand: One School's Promise in a Nation at War."

The book raises painful and very pertinent questions: Can liberal values take root in a conservative Muslim country that is threatened by Islamist radicals? And what will happen to Afghans who embrace those values after U.S. troops leave?

The answer to the first question is yes — with caveats.

When Gen. John Allen handed off command of U.S. troops in February 2013, he warmly welcomed two orphaned Marefat students, who were sitting in the front row of the ceremony. His emotions visible, Allen said they represented the future for which U.S. and Afghan troops fought.

I attended this ceremony — which provides the opening scene in Stern's book — and understand Allen's enthusiasm. What was achieved by the orphaned Somaya and Mustafa, and what Royesh had built — on his own, without U.S. or foreign help — was astounding. His own schooling cut short by the Soviet invasion, this determined dreamer educated himself in the Afghan refugee camps of Pakistan. He returned to Kabul after the Taliban's fall and created a school that taught civic education, along with human rights and female empowerment.

It is amazing enough that this slight, quiet Afghan was able to absorb humanistic values from his own reading. But what is even more impressive is how Royesh — a member of the repressed Hazara Shiite minority — won over (often illiterate) parents in the dusty Kabul slum of Dasht e-Barchi.

The odds were stacked against him. Hazaras are an Asiatic sect descended in legend from a unit of one thousand troops left behind after the invasion of Ghengis Khan (thus the book's title). They have long been disdained by Afghanistan's majority Pashtuns.

But, in fact, many Hazaras were so eager to educate their children that they helped Royesh build his school, room by room, floor by floor. When I visited in 2009, I watched students wade through mud to sit in cold classrooms bare of any amenities, yet they came prepared and debated noisily with teachers.

Stern, a native Philadelphian, got to know Royesh when he spent two years in Kabul as a freelance journalist after graduating from college. On his return to Philadelphia, he headed a video project at the National Constitution Center that matched Marefat students with counterparts here to explore the meaning of freedom to minority groups. In 2010, Royesh and some of the students were invited by the center to show their videos in Philly.

Returning to Kabul in 2013, Stern watched Royesh struggle to protect the school and its pupils. When girl students boldly demonstrated against a draft law proposed by Shiite clerics that would have sharply constricted Shiite women's rights, they were attacked violently.

The government forced Royesh to stop coed education (he built a separate building for girls, but retained coed extracurricular activities) and to drop civic education courses (he continued them by radio). Raising funds is a struggle but he keeps the school afloat on tuition payments.

With President barack Obama initially determined to withdraw all U.S. troops by the end of 2014, Royesh constantly worried whether he was educating his students, especially girls, for disappointment. He also worried what would happen to them after the Americans left.

It was these fears that dogged Stern as he did his research. The Taliban has specifically targeted Hazaras, as has the Islamic State. Fearful of the future, and worried about the economy, a trickle of Marefat students has joined the global migrant exodus.

Stern said, "I wrote the book to ask this question: Are these students better off for having had the opportunity to think critically, even if it might be gone tomorrow?" He was also haunted by the 1975 image of Vietnamese clinging to the last U.S. helicopter evacuating Saigon. He didn't want the Marefat students to be the people on the roof.

Given Taliban advances, Obama has now decided to keep around 9,800 U.S. forces in Afghanistan through 2016 and 5,500 after he leaves office. Royesh told me by phone that this is important. "The mere presence of … U.S. forces is a psychological help for the Afghan people," he says, "because it shows them they are not abandoned to (the Islamic State). It shows them the international community has eyes on Afghanistan."

Does he worry that, having been taught their rights, his students will be crushed when they try to exercise them? "The challenge for me," he said, "is to empower them with a new vision, but not to detach them from reality."

Marefat has become internationally known, but has not been embraced by Afghan educators outside the Hazara community. Royesh contemplated entering politics — working with President Ashraf Ghani before his election — but has soured on the idea.

Still, Teacher Royesh, as he is known, believes the spread of the Marefat mindset is possible. But it will require intellectuals in other communities promote the concept of citizenship. "It is a question of will," he insists. "Marefat is a beacon." Royesh's students — including adult women learning literacy — continue to soldier on, winning scholarships to Afghan and foreign universities. Of Gen. Allen's two orphans, Mustafa is studying in Turkey and Somaya in Kyrgyzstan.

Stern's book offers a vision of what is still possible in Kabul, and the obstacles that make it so improbable. If Marefat's story moves you, you can donate to the school at www. bamyanfoundation.org.

The PC crisis at the Academy

By WILLIAM GOLDSTEIN
Los Angeles Times

William Goldstein is a longtime academy member who serves on multiple executive committees. He has been a recording artist for Motown and CBS Masterworks and has composed music for films and the concert hall. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has long been under attack from self-righteous critics. Now its traditions and procedures are under attack by the academy leadership, which last week capitulated to political correctness.

The #OscarsSoWhite controversy, as it's known on social media, is bedeviled by misinformation. I have read numerous accounts of how 6,200 mostly old white males produced the lily white nominations of 20 actors this year. In fact these nominees were selected by the 1,138 members of the actors branch, which has a larger percentage of African-Americans than other branches, and probably skews younger as well. (The academy doesn't keep statistics on age.)

These same voters in the last few years gave best acting Oscars to Forest Whitaker ("Last King of Scotland"), Mo'Nique ("Precious"), Viola Davis ("The Help"), Lupita Nyong'o ("12 Years a Slave"), and a nomination to Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave").

Beyond the acting category, it's absurd to pretend that the academy ignores films created by or about people of color. "12 Years a Slave" won three Oscars in 2014. "Selma" was nominated for best picture in 2015. A few months ago, the academy gave Spike Lee an honorary Oscar for his contribution to cinema.

And the academy routinely recognizes socially conscious films. This year, for instance, two films dealing with LGBT themes were nominated: "Carol" and "The Danish Girl."

The academy does not make movies. Critics unhappy with the number of black, Latino or Asian directors and actors must look elsewhere—to the studios and independent producers.

As for what gets nominated, as an academy member it seems to me that we should remain colorblind and reward artistic excellence without regard to race (or class, or creed, or gender). Of course, in years with many great performances and thought-provoking films, worthy work can escape official recognition.

Why is no one talking about which actors should not have been nominated, so that colleagues of color could have taken their place? Could it be that the current nominees are all worthy? Why is no one talking about the nominations in non-acting branches? Alejandro G. Inarritu, who is Mexican, won a directing Oscar last year and is nominated again this year for "The Revenant." Aren't Mexicans still considered a minority in PC circles?

I certainly count myself among those who value inclusion and believe that our country's demographic diversity is a positive good. But why must the academy perfectly mirror that diversity? It's a meritocracy. The only entrance requirement is excellence in one's chosen field. At least, that was true until last week.

Since 2012, the academy has encouraged its branches to seek qualified artists from diverse backgrounds. Change was occurring naturally. Unfortunately, not fast enough for some. Succumbing to years of pressure, the academy leadership Friday unveiled a radical plan to satisfy the PC mob. With the express goal of doubling the number of female and racially diverse members by 2020, the leadership decided to "supplement the traditional process in which current members sponsor new members by launching an ambitious, global campaign to identify and recruit qualified new members who represent greater diversity." The leadership also moved to curtail lifetime voting privileges. "Each new member's voting status will last 10 years, and will be renewed if that new member has been active in motion pictures during that decade."

In case it's not obvious, the point is to purge older (presumably white) members and create something akin to affirmative action for new members.

Among other issues, I find it troubling that the leadership pushed through these changes without consulting the academy at large. It may be legal for less than 1 percent of the academy to unilaterally upend tradition, but is it moral? It's certainly not democratic.

Since its creation, the academy's focus has been excellence in motion pictures. The new focus, apparently, is diversity, and I'm sure I'm not alone in finding this re-conception misguided. In the past, black, Latino and Asian industry professionals could rest assured that they were admitted to the academy or awarded an Oscar for one reason only: the brilliance of their work. Now they and outsiders will wonder if they were tapped to fill some arbitrary quota.

These measures seriously risk devaluing the importance of membership, the Oscar itself, and the academy's reputation as a benchmark for moviemakers.

The academy is not a government agency, and it's not our job to legislate social change. We can, however, inspire and give opportunity to young filmmakers by expanding the academy's educational outreach programs.

A good film touches the souls of people all over the world regardless of their race, gender, politics or sexual orientation. Filmmakers' only concern should be to strive for that level of achievement; academy members' only concern should be to recognize that level of achievement.

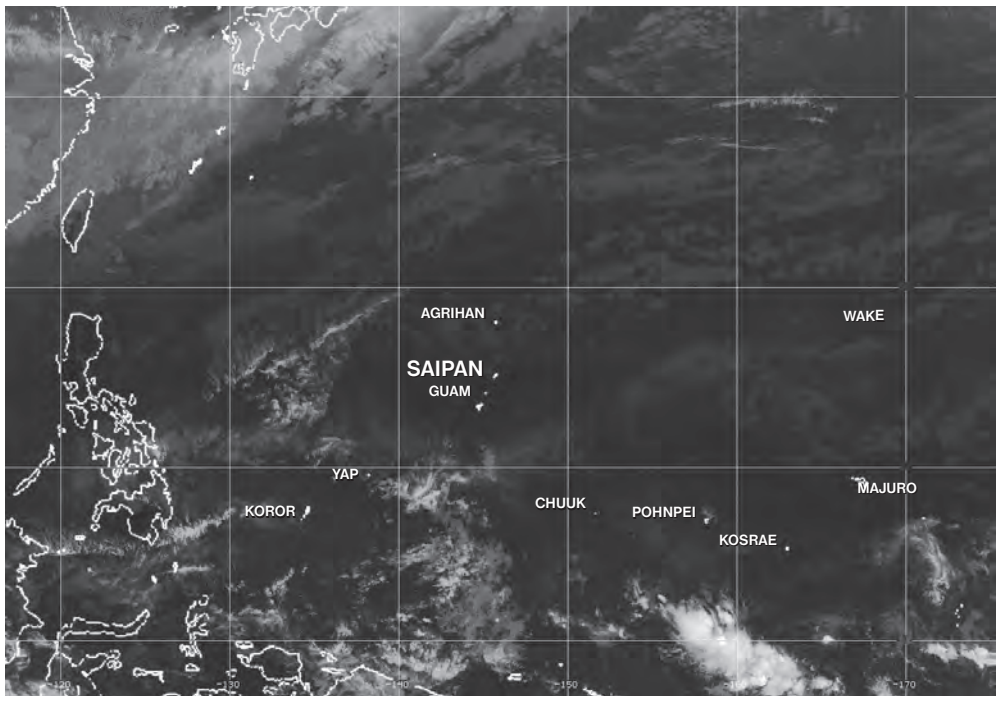
Of course, this matter goes beyond the academy or the arts in general. We must all commit ourselves to creating a society where, as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said, we are "judged by the content of our character rather than the color of our skin."

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼76º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º	▲86º ▼75º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 12:27 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A diffuse shear line curves westward from 13N180 to 10N165E to 13N159E to 10N150E to 8N146E to 10N139E to 10N130E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are found north of Yap, south of Guam and north of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands along and up to 200 miles north of this feature. Low-level convergence near the equator is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Kapingamarangi atoll south of a line from 3N155E to 2N161E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼68
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼19
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲63	▼40
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼74
Melbourne	Showers	▲68	▼58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲49	▼41
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼35
Paris	Showers	▲54	▼40
Pusan	Sunny	▲46	▼27
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼55
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲54	▼44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼22
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼32
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲50	▼43

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:47 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
1:49 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
9:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:16 PM	10:41 AM
Wednesday	1:41 AM	1:27 PM
Thursday	2:32 AM	2:15 PM
Friday	3:24 AM	3:07 PM
Saturday	4:17 AM	4:01 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

BSI supports Saipan Cares for Animals

Saipan Cares for Animals, one of the island's major volunteer groups partnering with the Saipan Mayor's Office in animal welfare, received animal food and care supplies donated by Best Sunshine International, Ltd. employees from an in-house drive initiated by the company's Corporate Social Responsibility team led by BSI CSR director Rita Chong.

"The goal of the in-house drive is to get BSI employees to support Saipan Cares for Animals in helping the animals in the shelter by donating pet food and treats, as well as supplies such as leashes, food, and water bowls. CSR initiated the in-house drive after receiving requests from Mr. Bruce Loprete, BSI VP for Surveillance, asking us to see how we can help the animals at the shelter. CSR project coordinators Kent Kalen and John Brel conducted an assessment of the facility and it was decided that it will be a worthwhile cause," said Chong.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. donated canned goods and supplies to Saipan Cares for Animals. Accepting the donation are vice president of Saipan Cares for Animals Elizabeth Pliscou and volunteer Nicole Essa, alongside Mayor David M. Apatang and his staff.

"The company in-house drive is being handled by CSR project coordinator Anthony Yoshikawa. He and his team have put together fliers that are posted at BSI's administrative offices at the Bank of Guam Building and the staff lounge at the casino," she added.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said, "I'd like to thank Best Sunshine for their generous contribution to help our animals at the shelter, and also for what they did to provide shelter from the rain for the dogs in the kennels. We really appreciate all the community service that the Best Sunshine CSR team is doing for the people of Saipan, especially the beautification."

Vice president for Saipan Cares for Animals Elizabeth Pliscou, commented, "We are really thankful for the donation made by Best Sunshine, of canned food, treats and all the supplies for the animals. Thank you especially for restoring and installing the tarp on the roof of the dog kennels. It really helps with draining all he rain water and I think the design of it was very smart."

After the in-house drive, BSI's CSR team will be working on a public outreach campaign to raise awareness and inform the public about the plight of the animals at the shelter, hopefully to get public support. They will be conducting a food and supply drive in the community.

CSR has been doing some repairs of the kennels at the animal shelter located at Lower Base to help keep the animals safe and dry, after the shelter sustained damage from Typhoon Soudelor. There are more activities planned to assist the Mayor's Office with the upkeep and maintenance of the shelter. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine›s CSR members repaired and put tarps over the dog kennels at the animal shelter which was considerably damaged by Typhoon Soudelor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A puppy seeks temporary shelter until it finds an adoptive family to take him home.

Family grief support meeting on Feb. 4

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding their monthly grief support meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Guam, and Saipan offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(PR)***

Water service restored to San Roque, Tanapag

Water service was restored to customers in the villages of San Roque and Tanapag this afternoon when Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Water personnel repaired a ruptured 2-inch lateral line under Chalan Pale Arnold.

As a result of the interruption, customers regularly scheduled to receive water until 3pm will now receive water until 7pm tonight. Service to the affected areas will resume with the regular daily schedule tomorrow morning.

Though the excavated area will be filled and the lane opened for traffic, motorists are urged to use caution when driving through area until a CUC contractor completes the final road repair.

Service was initially interrupted Sunday, Jan. 31, when CUC water personnel verified reports of water bubbling from the road. This morning, the CUC leak detection team pinpointed the location of the line break through the use of ground miking equipment, which allowed the repair crew to isolate, excavate, and repair the rupture.

For more information, please contact the 24-hour CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/).

CUC is a non-profit autonomous agency of the CNMI government. The utility provides electric power, water, and wastewater services to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

San Antonio MS PTSA meeting today

The PTSA officers of San Antonio Middle School is inviting all parents and guardians to the PTSA meeting today, Feb. 2, 5:30pm in the school cafeteria.

Immediately after the PTSA meeting is the 2nd Quarter Report Card Distribution and parent conference. We encourage parents and guardians to meet with their child's teachers. ***(PR)***

UOG Science Building all clear; operations resume

The University of Guam has given the "all clear" for the Science Building. Normal operations have resumed.

Earlier this morning, a gas-like odor was reported in the Science Building. The cause of the odor was an unsecured gas valve in one of the chemistry labs. No one was injured. ***(PR)***

Green flag for east, south beaches of Saipan

The Division of Environmental Quality has given the recreational beaches in the east and south of Saipan green flags.

DEQ analyzed water samples collected from 12 Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secD=52. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications for the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, please send an email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning this matter. ***(PR)***

Business

Oxfam: $1.9B in Ebola aid not delivered by donors

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—International donors have failed to deliver $1.9 billion in promised funds to help West African countries recover from the Ebola epidemic that killed more than 11,000 people and decimated already weak health care systems, the U.K.-based charity Oxfam said Sunday.

The remaining $3.9 billion pledged has been difficult to track because of "scant information" and a lack of transparency, the group said.

"We're finding it hard to understand which donors have given what money, to whom and for what purpose," said Aboubacry Tall, Oxfam's regional director for West Africa.

Oxfam called on donors and the governments of Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea—the three hardest-hit countries—to provide detailed information on how aid is being provided.

AP

In this Wednesday March 11, 2015 file photo, relatives weep as they bury a loved one suspected of dying from the Ebola virus at a new graveyard on the outskirts of Monrovia, Liberia.

More than $5 billion was pledged by the international community as part of a special International Ebola Recovery Conference in New York last July. At least $1.9 billion of that "still has not been allocated to a specific country in a pledge statement let alone through more firm commitments to specific recovery programs."

Originating in Guinea more than two years ago, the Ebola outbreak left some 23,000 children without at least one of their parents or caregivers, while some 17,000 survivors are trying to resume their lives despite battling mysterious, lingering side effects.

The international community already has been criticized for how it handled the crisis. An Associated Press investigation found the World Health Organization delayed declaring an international emergency for political and economic reasons. Emails, documents and interviews obtained by the AP show the World Health Organization and other responders failed to organize a strong response. None of the senior leaders involved in directing the Ebola response has been disciplined or fired.

Banks reach $154.3 million settlement on 'dark pool' fraud

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two major global banks, Barclays and Credit Suisse, are paying a combined $154.3 million to settle government investigations that they misled clients about being able to safely trade on their "dark pool" financial exchanges, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Attorney General's office said Sunday.

The banks left their customers on these private exchanges vulnerable to "predatory, high-frequency traders" that could intercept and profit off their financial transactions, despite assurances by Barclays and Credit Suisse to the contrary, according to a statement the New York Attorney General.

"These cases mark the first major victory in the fight to combat fraud in dark pool trading," said New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman in the statement. "We will continue to take the fight to those who aim to rig the system and those who look the other way."

Zurich-based Credit Suisse, a major firm on Wall Street, said it was "pleased to have resolved these matters." Barclays was unavailable for comment.

The SEC and New York Attorney General had planned to announce the joint settlement Monday before it was reported by The Wall Street Journal Sunday morning.

Dark pools are private exchanges for trading stocks and bonds. Unlike traditional markets with public prices, trades on dark pools are generally confidential, a benefit for companies engaging in large transactions.

The investigations—as well as books including Michael Lewis' best-seller "Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt"—found that high-speed traders could get early access to dark pool trades and gain an unfair advantage.

"Dark pools have a significant role in today's equity marketplace, and the firms that run these venues must ensure that they do not make misstatements to subscribers about their material operations," said Andrew Ceresney, director of the SEC's enforcement division.

Drone schools spread in China to field pilots for new sector

BEIJING (AP)—Joysticks at their fingertips, the mostly male students packing the classroom lift their virtual helicopters into the air, part of a new cottage industry that's sprung up in China: drone pilot schools.

China is already the world's biggest drone manufacturer, churning out remote-controlled flying machines that range from 3-D urban mappers to tear-gas spraying models for police. But it lacks qualified pilots to fly them.

Young men in particular are flocking to drone schools such as TT Aviation Technology Co., one of more than 40 in China, hoping to land a potentially lucrative job in an exciting new field.

TT Aviation offers a two-week intensive course for 8,000 yuan ($1,200) where students learn regulations and how to pilot using simulators and real drones. At the end of the course, they can try to earn the license required by China's Civil Aviation Administration to operate drones that are heavier than 7 kilograms (15 pounds) and fly higher than 120 meters (400 feet).

Xu Honggang, 24, believes the license will open doors to piloting jobs that make at least 5,000 Chinese yuan per month ($780), higher than average. Some experienced pilots bring in double that amount, he said.

"I want to build my own company with drone services," Xu said one recent afternoon next to a grassy field where his instructor demonstrated basic moves with a small radio-controlled helicopter. "I like to work for myself. This is a new and popular line of work."

The opportunities appear promising. More than 10,000 new pilots are needed this year across all industries in China, but only 1,000 pilots now hold licenses, said Yang Yi, the general manager of TT Aviation, which also manufactures and sells drones to private and public sector customers.

When presenting a problem to boss, propose a solution

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: The phones in this office are driving me crazy. Whenever my co-workers are away from their desks or on another line, I always answer their calls. Since they seem to be unavailable most of the time, I am constantly being interrupted while trying to get my own job done. How can I tell these people that I don't have time to do their work for them?

A: First, we need to establish whether covering phones is actually your responsibility. Unless your manager has specifically told you to answer all these lines, you should let them go to voicemail. Problem solved.

But if phone backup is indeed an official duty, then your irritation with your colleagues is misplaced. In that case, you are not "doing their work for them." You are simply doing a rather annoying part of your own job.

That said, however, I certainly understand that constantly shifting attention from projects to phone calls can be both distracting and frustrating. So instead of scolding your busy co-workers, consider initiating a businesslike discussion with your boss about how this problem might be solved.

For example; "I have an idea for managing the phones that I hope you will consider. Although I don't mind covering for my co-workers, frequent phone interruptions make it hard to concentrate on my own projects. If possible, I would like to continue taking calls when people are away or in meetings, but let their lines go to voicemail if they are in the office. Would that be OK with you?"

Even if your boss has other ideas, you will have managed to raise the issue without sounding like a whiner. When bringing problems to management, wise employees always include a possible solution.

Q: I recently interviewed an outstanding applicant with terrific qualifications, but now I'm not sure if I should hire him. Because "Jack" worked in this organization t10 years ago, I automatically checked his employment history in our centralized personnel system. Unfortunately, a red flag popped up indicating that he had been fired.

Apparently, Jack and another employee were let go after they got into a physical fight at work. Now I can't decide whether to take a chance on Jack or just look for someone else. What do you think?

A: Rehiring someone who was terminated for cause is certainly a risk. But on the other hand, 10 years is a long time, and people do change. So I can see why you're wrestling with this decision.

Before making up your mind, try to gather more data. Start by seeing if anyone in management can provide details of the previous incident. Carefully review Jack's resume and talk with former employers. If possible, ask your human resources manager to obtain a complete background check.

Once you know what Jack has been doing for the past decade, you can better predict the kind of employee he might be now. Employment gaps, short-term jobs, lukewarm recommendations and any mention of performance problems could all be warning signs. But if Jack appears to have become a calm, stable, productive person, then he might be an excellent choice.

Nation

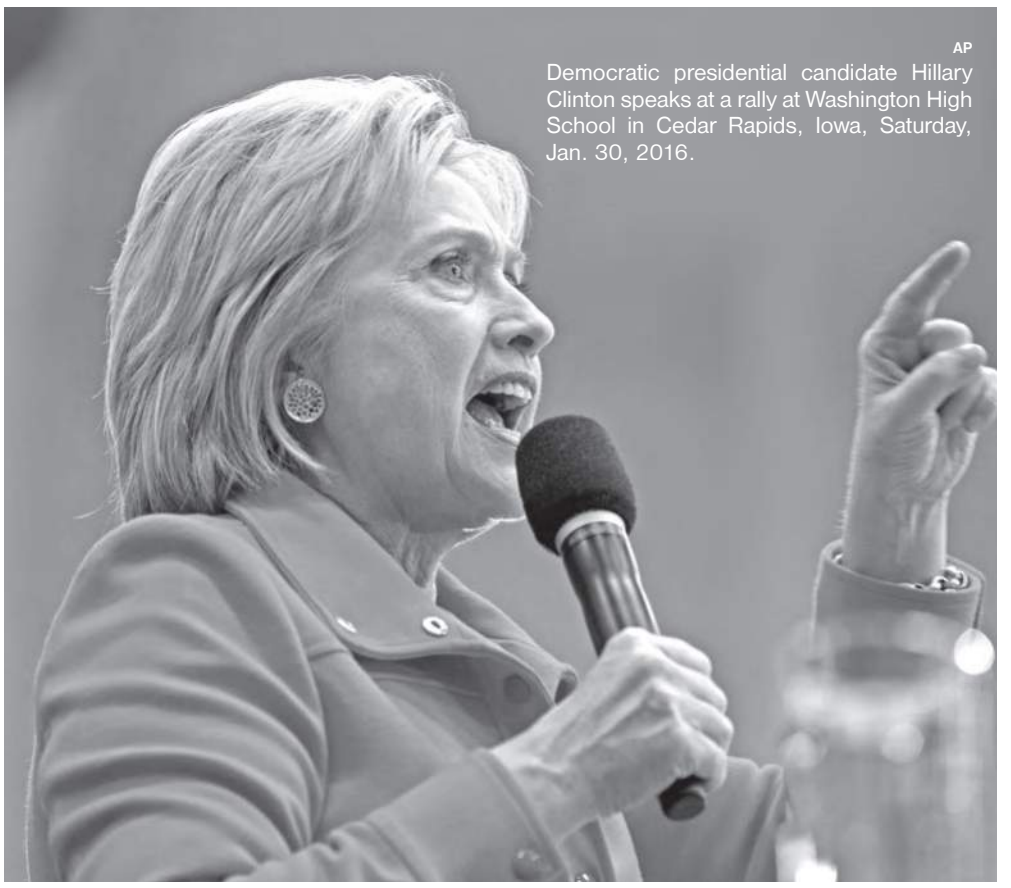
In final Iowa blitz, an outraged Clinton channels Sanders

AMES, Iowa (AP)—Seeking victory in Iowa, Hillary Clinton has begun channeling the economic indignation of her rival Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, whose unapologetically liberal campaign has tightened the race ahead of Monday's caucuses and given him a lead in the New Hampshire contest that follows.

Making her closing argument to Iowa caucus-goers, Clinton now cloaks her detailed policy plans in Sanders' outraged rhetoric. Pharmaceutical pricing "burns" her up. Companies that take advantage of the tax loopholes get her "pretty riled up." And she promises to "rail away" at any industry that flouts the law.

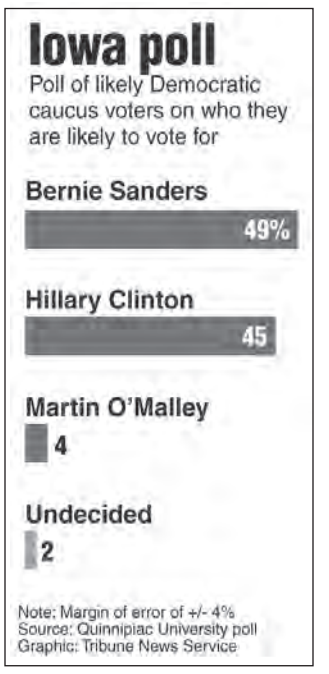
"I'm going after all of them" she declared in Davenport, her tone escalating to a shout. "When I talk about going after those companies, those businesses, those special interests, I have a much broader target list than my opponents."

The former secretary of state's fiery new tone underscores a strategic decision to co-opt some of the political style from the insurgent candidate who has galvanized the Democratic party and put her long-held lead in jeopardy. It comes as a new poll released Saturday night by the Des Moines Register and Bloomberg News showed the two candidates locked in a neck-and-neck race.



AP

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a rally at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016.



Though Clinton remains likely to win the nomination, a loss in Iowa would complicate her path and heighten Democratic concerns about her campaign. Already some Democrats have voiced concerns about her message and campaign management, worries that will only grow if she faces dual losses in the first two primary states.

While Clinton's effort is aimed at winning the primary, her strategists are also trying to figure out how to tap into the deep vein of national frustration that's driving Republican Donald Trump's rise in Republican primary polls. Should she capture the Democratic nomination, Clinton will need to find a way to mobilize Sanders supporters to fuel a White House victory.

Sanders casts the contest as a clash between establishment politics and his promise to bring forth political revolution, asking Iowa voters to send a message to the rest of the nation. He will need a large turnout among college students, independents and first-time caucus-goers to upset Clinton.

While Clinton has campaigned as the rightful heir to President Barack Obama's two terms, Sanders has portrayed himself as the successor to Obama's political movement, launched more than eight years ago in Iowa.

Echoing Obama, Sanders tells audiences that fundamental changes in the nation "never come from on top" but only happens with "millions of people standing up for justice." He points to Iowa as the place where a majority-white electorate voted for a black candidate in Obama, focusing on his ideas instead of his skin color. And he frequently fires up crowds by asking attendees to shout out their student loan interest rates and debt levels.

It's a tactic Clinton has begun deploying at her events, pausing her remarks to ask attendees to share the details of their debt.

1 killed by fallen tree as wet winter storm hits California

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A motorist was fatally struck by a tree that was knocked by powerful winds as a winter storm hits California, bringing downpours, wind and snow, authorities said Sunday.

The driver was passing by a residential street in Pacific Beach when a large oak tree fell across a roadway, blocking all four traffic lanes, San Diego Fire and Rescue Capt. Joe Amador said.

The tree, which measured 8 feet in diameter, also crushed three parked cars that were not occupied, he said.

"To the people out here dealing with the rain: be careful, drive slowly and arrive alive," Amador said.

Strong winds downed dozens of trees and power poles and ripped off rooftops—and in one case, solar panels—across Southern California.

Wind gusts topped 50 mph in the San Diego area and 65 mph in Malibu, according to the National Weather Service. The highest reading of the day was at Whitaker Peak, north of Castaic, where a gust was recorded at 115 mph.

The storm also dropped up to an inch of rain in some places by 4 p.m. Sunday, and forecasters said up to 2 inches of rain was expected in the valleys of Los Angeles County and as many as 3 inches possible for southwest-facing foothills and mountains.

A flash flood watch was issued for foothill neighborhoods underneath wildfire burn areas, triggering fears of possible mudslides and debris flows. Power outages affecting about 140,000 utility customers were reported across the Los Angeles and San Diego area.

Blinding rain briefly brought traffic to a near-standstill on LA freeways. North of the city, a crash during a heavy downpour involving two trucks closed southbound lanes of Interstate 5 near the Grapevine. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The storm also churned up high surf along west and northwest-facing beaches. The rough seas prompted authorities to close the piers at Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

To the north, Interstate 80 near Truckee was closed for more than two hours after 29 vehicles got into a pileup amid snowy conditions, KCRA-TV reported.

Makeshift memorial springs up on Oregon highway for rancher

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—About a dozen people paid their respects Sunday afternoon at a makeshift memorial that has sprung up where rancher Robert "LaVoy" Finicum was shot and killed by police last week on U.S. Highway 395 north of Burns.

The mourners wiped tears, prayed, and laid a copy of the U.S. Constitution on a large wooden cross that has been planted at the site.

The site is also surrounded by American flags and signs, including one that says "RIP LaVoy Finicum. A True American hero."

Meanwhile, the four people occupying a national wildlife refuge held their position Sunday. They have demanded that they be allowed to leave without being arrested. The jailed group's leader, Ammon Bundy, and 10 others who were arrested last week remained in custody.

Through his lawyer, Bundy on Saturday again called on the remaining occupiers to leave. The FBI has said it's trying to resolve the situation peacefully.

The mourners at the makeshift memorial Sunday included Brandon Curtis, a founder of the Pacific Patriots Network, which is demanding the removal of law enforcement officers from Burns.

"We've had enough," Curtis said. "This stops now."

The network said it had additional rallies planned for Monday in Burns and called for like-minded people to gather in the small eastern Oregon town.

"This is a call to action against an armed militarized police force," said B.J. Soper, a network leader.

"We want to protest this armed insurgency taking place by our federal government," Soper said of the standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge near Burns.

Activists are urging people who oppose a "militarized police presence" to converge on the small high desert town near the wildlife refuge that has been occupied by an armed group for a month.

The network also organized a rolling rally through Burns on Saturday night, and said it planned more demonstrations to protest the killing of Finicum, and the presence of numerous heavily armed law enforcement officers at the standoff.

After arrests, focus turns to how 3 men escaped from jail

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Now that the three violent inmates who escaped from a California jail are back in custody, the focus will turn to how they were able to saw, crawl and climb their way out of a maximum-security facility.

Orange County Sheriff Sandra Hutchens said she was elated to announce the arrests of the final two fugitives Saturday after eight days on the run from the jail she oversees. But the tough work is just getting started to determine and fix the security lapses that allowed the escape.

"Believe me, we will be looking top to bottom on that," she said. "We do not want another escape from an Orange County jail."

The last two escapees were caught after a civilian flagged down officers near San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and pointed out a parked van that looked like one believed stolen by the trio of inmates during the brazen escape. The man also said someone who looked like one of the fugitives was in the area.

Police approached Hossein Nayeri, the suspected mastermind of the jail break, and he was captured after a short foot chase. The second fugitive, 20-year-old Jonathan Tieu, was found hiding in the van with ammunition but no gun. He surrendered without incident. Both men were returned to Orange County early Sunday.

A third inmate, Bac Duong, 43, surrendered Friday after walking into an auto repair shop in Santa Ana just a few miles from the jail. He told police he had been with the others in San Jose, and the search immediately shifted to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Authorities were interviewing the inmates, hoping to fill the many holes about the escape and their week on the run. How did they get the sharp cutting tools to hack their way through jail walls? What did they do outside the walls? Where did they stay? How did they get money for gas and food?

The three did not know each other before being housed in the Orange County jail. They were awaiting trial on charges including murder, attempted murder, torture and kidnapping. Duong and Tieu have ties to street gangs that operate in the shadows of Orange County's thriving Vietnamese community.

Asia

Myanmar house begins new session dominated by Suu Kyi party

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's parliament dominated by pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party on Monday began a new and historic session that will install the country's first democratically elected government in more than 50 years.

The National League for Democracy won a landslide in the Nov. 8 elections, winning 80 percent of the seats in the two houses of parliament to defeat the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party.

Legislators from the two parties and from smaller ethnic minority parties as well as nominated military representatives filed into the cavernous parliament for the session in which the members took a joint oath of office.

The session marks a historic turnaround for the NLD, which for years was suppressed by the military, which had ruled the country directly or indirectly after seizing power in 1962. NLD leaders including Suu Kyi and other critics were jailed, and overt political activity was crushed.

The Southeast Asian nation started moving away from dictatorship toward democracy in 2011, when the military rulers agreed to hand over power to a nominally civilian government headed by President Thein Sein, a general turned reformist.

AP

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, center, arrives to participate in the inauguration session of Myanmar's lower house parliament Monday, Feb. 1, 2016 in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.

He will stand down in late March or early April when an NLD president takes over.

Suu Kyi is constitutionally barred from taking the presidency, and has vowed to rule from behind the scenes through a proxy. She has not announced who her party will nominate for president.

"We don't know exactly when the presidential election will happen. We cannot tell you anything about who will be nominated as the presidential candidates as well," said Zayar Thaw, an NLD legislator.

Despite its landslide victory, the NLD in practice will have to share power with the military, for which the constitution reserves 25 percent of the seats in parliament. Suu Kyi has met with senior military leaders to try to ensure a smooth change of government, and they have vowed not to interfere.

Thein Sein's military-backed USDP won a 2010 election in which the NLD refused to participate, protesting that it was held under unfair conditions. After several changes in the election law, the NLD contested several dozen by-elections in 2012, winning virtually all of them.

The military called an election in 1990, which Suu Kyi's party won handsomely, only to see the results annulled by the military and many of its leading members harassed and jailed.

Suu Kyi was put under house arrest prior to the 1990 election and spent 15 of the next 22 years mostly confined to her lakeside villa in Yangon. She was under house arrest when she won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

Establishing democracy is only one hurdle the country faces. The new government will also have to contend with various ethnic rebellions in several parts of the country. The military-backed government signed a peace pact with more than dozen smaller ethnic armies before the elections but major groups have stayed away, and fighting continues in many states. Most are fighting for autonomy and rights over their resource-rich land.

"I hope this will be a good opportunity for us to speak out for the ethnic people and demand indigenous rights," said Lama Naw Aung, a lower house member from the Kachin State Democracy Party, representing the Kachin minority who are engaged in ongoing battles with the army in the east of the country.

Malaysia prosecutor, fund will help in Swiss graft probe

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia's top prosecutor said Saturday he will cooperate with Swiss authorities, whose investigation into an indebted Malaysian state investment fund indicated that $4 billion may have been misappropriated from Malaysian state-owned companies.

Switzerland's top prosecutor said he sought Malaysia's help after the investigation into 1MDB confirmed that some money was transferred into accounts held in Switzerland. The accounts were held by various former Malaysian public officials and both former and current public officials from the United Arab Emirates.

The Swiss office said in a statement Friday that criminal proceedings were opened last August against two former 1MDB officials and individuals unknown on suspicion of bribery of foreign public officials, misconduct in public office, money laundering and criminal mismanagement.

The $4 billion would have been earmarked for investment in economic and social development projects in Malaysia.

Prime Minister Najib Razak, who formed 1MDB in 2009, became embroiled in the scandal after documents leaked last year suggested some $700 million deposited into his accounts may have come from entities linked to 1MDB. Malaysia's Attorney General Mohamed Apandi Ali on Tuesday cleared Najib of any wrongdoing, saying it was a private donation from the Saudi royal family.

Apandi said in a statement Saturday that Malaysian investigations into alleged graft by 1MDB are still ongoing.

"My office intends to take all possible steps to follow up and collaborate with our Swiss counterparts, and we look forward to receiving the findings of their investigations and materials," he said. He said the materials will be reviewed along with Malaysia's own probe to determine the right course of action.

1MDB also said in a statement that it was willing to cooperate in the Swiss investigation but it hasn't been contacted.

Jobs protest in southern India turns violent, 15 police hurt

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—A protest in southern India by thousands of people demanding that some state government jobs be reserved for members of a lower-caste community turned violent Sunday with at least 15 policemen injured, an official said.

Chandrababu Nadu, the top elected official of Andhra Pradesh state, said the protesters set on fire some train coaches, a police station and dozens of vehicles.

He said the protesters belonging to the lower-caste Kapu community blocked a national highway and disrupted train service by sitting on railroad tracks.

Naidu said passengers on the Ratnachal Express train were unharmed. But he said at least 15 policemen were injured when protesters attacked them with stones near Tuni, a town about 600 kilometers (375 miles) east of Hyderabad, the joint capital of Andhra Pradesh and the newly-formed Telangana states.

The violence started during a big public meeting organized by the Kapu community which accused the ruling Telugu Desam Party, a regional group, of reneging on its promise made during the state legislature elections in 2014 to reserve some state government jobs for members of the lower-caste group. The Kapu community comprises nearly 26 percent of the state's 50 million people.

The protesters marched toward the railroad tracks and stopped the Ratnachal Express train. They ordered the passengers to get off and set four coaches on fire, police said.

They ransacked the Tuni rail station and also set a nearby police post and 25 cars and other vehicles on fire, Naidu said. The protesters clashed with police when they tried to disperse them.

Police reinforcements have been sent to the area to end the protest, Naidu said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Snow strands travelers at start of Chinese New Year getaway

BEIJING (AP)—Rare snow in central China has disrupted the country's Lunar New Year travel rush, which involves millions of people and is considered the largest annual human migration. Travelers faced flight delays and cancelations after heavy snow fell in central Hubei province Sunday and closed down the airport in the city of Wuhan. According to the airport's website, 67 flights were canceled Sunday and a trickle of flights were delayed or canceled Monday because of the bad weather. The official Xinhua News Agency said at least 2,000 people were stranded at the airport. Sunday's closure of the airport had a knock-on effect on rail travel, as more people flocked to train stations. But the snow slowed down trains, with an average delay of up to 50 minutes, Xinhua reported. One expressway linking Hubei with Jiangxi province to its south had traffic at a standstill for a stretch of about 3 kilometers (2 miles). Four major expressways in Jiangsu province were closed, Xinhua said.

China sentences 2 men to death in slaying of Tibetan monk

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese court sentenced two men to death in the 2013 killing of Akong Rinpoche, a well-known religious figure who founded the first Tibetan Buddhist monastery in the West and built an international network of spiritual retreats. Thubten Kunsal, a Tibetan man who had worked at Akong's monastery in the United Kingdom as an artist for nine years, fatally stabbed Akong, his nephew and his driver after confronting him at his home in the city of Chengdu over $415,000 in wages he believed he was owed, according to a statement Sunday by the Chengdu People's Intermediate Court. Thubten and another man, Ciren Banyue, were given the death penalty while a third man was sentenced to three years' prison for hiding daggers used in the killings. Thubten and Ciren said they planned to appeal, according to the court statement.

China company accused of fleecing investors of $7.6 billion

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police arrested 21 employees at China's largest online finance business on suspicion of fleecing 900,000 investors for $7.6 billion, in what could be the biggest financial fraud in Chinese history. State media outlets reported the arrests late Sunday and state broadcaster CCTV aired purported confessions from two former employees at Ezubao, an Anhui Province outfit that rose from obscurity to become China's largest online financing platform in the span of about 18 months. Ezubao was the most spectacular player in a booming online investment industry that Chinese authorities have been struggling to regulate. Firms ranging from established Internet companies such as Alibaba to virtually unknown upstarts have flooded into the business, promising higher returns than those at state-run banks. Ezubao promised investors that borrowers on its platform would pay back loans at interest rates between 9 percent and 14.6 percent, but 95 percent of those borrowers were fictional entities created by Ezubao, a former company executive told investigators.

World

Boko Haram burns kids alive in Nigeria, 86 dead: officials

DALORI, Nigeria (AP)—A survivor hidden in a tree says he watched Boko Haram extremists firebomb huts and heard the screams of children burning to death, among 86 people officials say died in the latest attack by Nigeria's homegrown Islamic extremists.

Scores of charred corpses and bodies with bullet wounds littered the streets from Saturday night's attack on Dalori village and two nearby camps housing 25,000 refugees, according to survivors and soldiers at the scene just 5 kilometers (3 miles) from Maiduguri, the birthplace of Boko Haram and the biggest city in Nigeria's northeast.

The shooting, burning and explosions from three suicide bombers continued for nearly four hours in the unprotected area, survivor Alamin Bakura said, weeping on a telephone call to The Associated Press. He said several of his family members were killed or wounded.

The violence continued as three female suicide bombers blew up among people who managed to flee to neighboring Gamori village, killing many people, according to a soldier at the scene who insisted on anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to journalists.

Troops arrived at Dalori around 8:40 p.m. Saturday but were unable to overcome the attackers, who were better armed, said soldiers who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press. The Boko Haram fighters only retreated after reinforcements arrived with heavier weapons, they said.

Journalists visited the carnage Sunday and spoke to survivors who complained it had taken too long for help to arrive from nearby Maiduguri, the military headquarters of the fight to curb Boko Haram. They said they fear another attack.

Eighty-six bodies were collected by Sunday afternoon, according to Mohammed Kanar, area coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency. Another 62 people are being treated for burns, said Abba Musa of the State Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri.

Boko Haram has been attacking soft targets, increasingly with suicide bombers, since the military last year drove them out of towns and villages in northeastern Nigeria.

The 6-year Islamic uprising has killed about 20,000 people and driven 2.5 million from their homes.

AP

People gather around a dead animal and burnt out houses following an attack by Boko Haram in Dalori village 5 kilometers (3 miles) from Maiduguri, Nigeria , Sunday Jan. 31, 2016.

Witness to migrant disaster that killed 37 describes screams

AYVACIK, Turkey (AP)—A witness to the drowning of 37 people including babies and other young children off Turkey's coast described the horror and screams in the moments after the boat carrying the migrants slammed into rocks, saying it was like "somebody was being murdered."

Gulcan Durdu, who lives on the beach in the Aegean resort of Ayvacik, cried Sunday while recounting for The Associated Press the tragedy that happened at dawn the previous day.

She described being awakened by screaming and wailing after the boat struck rocks and capsized.

"I thought somebody was being murdered," Durdu told the AP.

Durdu said that she and her husband rushed to try to help survivors and brought a boy to their home to try to warm him up.

"We wrapped him up (in blankets)," she said. "I brought the hair dryer to 'warm.' The boy became limp in my arms" before losing consciousness.

The boy was still alive when she handed him over to paramedics who had arrived, Durdu said, adding that she would be haunted by the tragedy forever.

"I will never stop hearing those cries for the rest of my life," Durdu said. "I will never forget. It was terrible. They died screaming. It was dark.

"We were only able to save those who were able to swim ashore."

On Sunday, the overturned boat was still sitting on rocks offshore and visible from the construction site where Durdu lives. The beach was littered with grim reminders of the disaster, including lifejackets, a child's sandal, clothing and other personal belongings that had washed onshore.

The migrants were trying to make the short journey from Turkey to Greece. Europe has endured a huge influx of migrants, most of whom undertake a dangerous journey in search of a better life.

Images of dead children on a beach on Saturday were another soul-searing reminder that Europe's migrant crisis keeps destroying lives and families by the day. The body of one boy was lying on large rocks on the beach, his face covered by a cloth, while the faces of other bodies scattered nearby were covered with lifejackets.

Israel's Netanyahu warns Gaza militants against attacking

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules Gaza on Sunday that his country will retaliate with "greater force" than deployed in the 2014 Gaza war if cross-border tunnels are used to attack Israel.

Hamas has built a sophisticated network of tunnels to infiltrate Israel in order to carry out attacks. Israelis living near Gaza have reported hearing tunneling sounds under their homes recently.

"We are operating systematically and calmly against all threats, including those from Hamas, both with defensive and offensive means, and of course in the event we are attacked by tunnels in Gaza we will operate with great force against Hamas, with much greater force than what we used in Operation Protective Edge," Netanyahu said in a speech to diplomats Sunday night, referring to the 50-day war with Gaza gunmen in 2014 by its military name.

"I think that is understood in the region, it's understood in the world. I hope we won't need to do it but our abilities both defensive and offensive are developing rapidly, and I wouldn't recommend anyone to try us," he said.

A senior Hamas leader boasted on Friday that Gaza militants dig tunnels and test rockets to attack Israel "every day." Ismail Haniyeh spoke at the funeral of seven militants who died this week when a tunnel from Gaza to Israel collapsed while they were repairing it. He said the tunnels are a "preparation" for war with Israel and boasted Hamas has "has built tunnels two times more than Vietnam tunnels."

The 2014 Gaza war was sparked by a chain of events stemming from the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers in the West Bank by Hamas gunmen and the kidnapping of a Palestinian teenager who was killed by Israeli extremists in a revenge attack. Israel arrested hundreds of Hamas members in raids in the West Bank, prompting militant groups in Gaza to escalate rocket attacks on Israeli cities.

More than 2,200 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians, were killed during the fighting. In Israel, 66 soldiers and seven civilians were killed.

Parts of Gaza were devastated in the fighting.

The war also exposed Israeli communities near Gaza to a new threat: underground Hamas attack tunnels that surfaced close to their homes.

WORLD BRIEFS

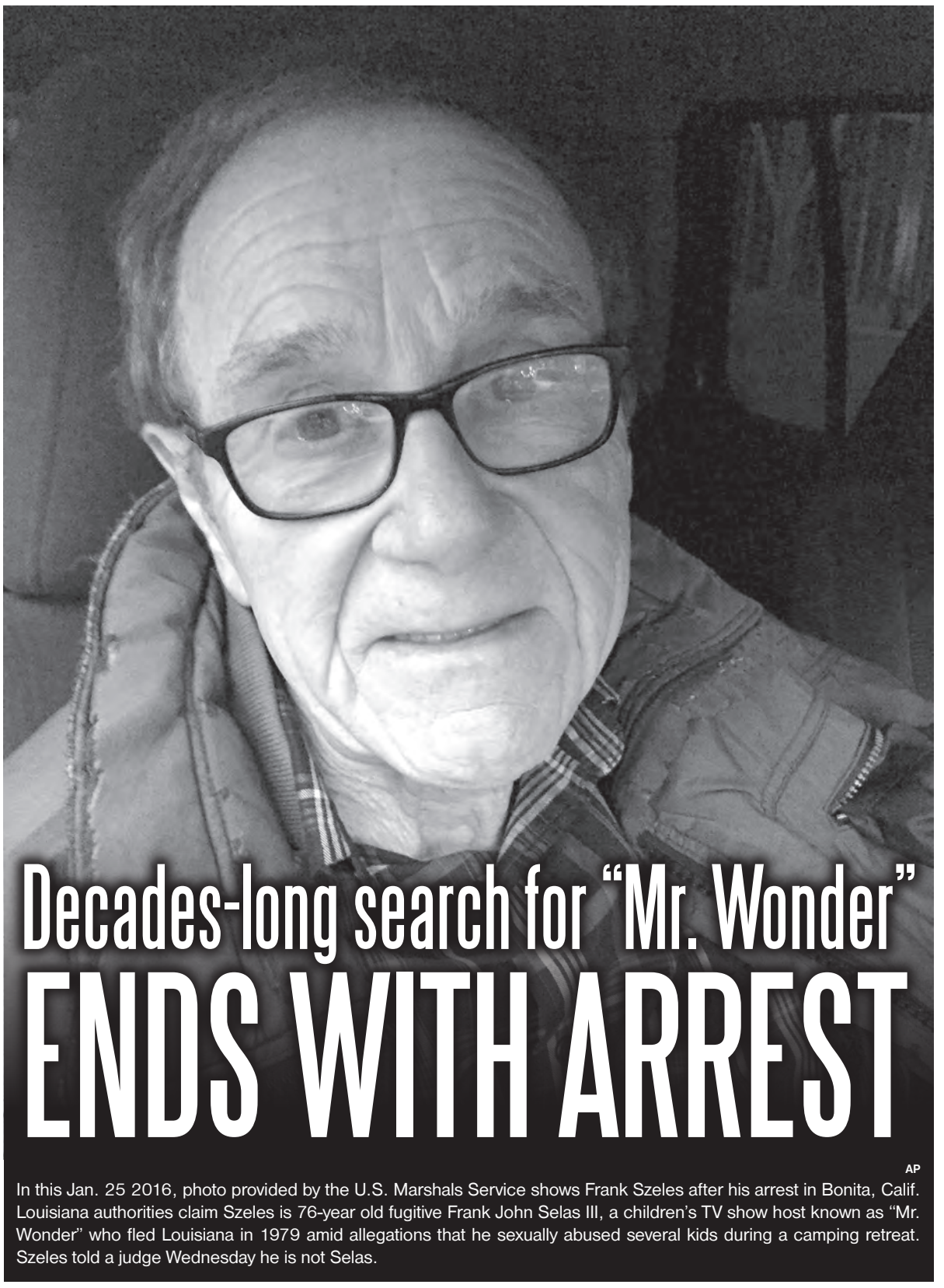
Ban doubles down on Israel comments in NY Times

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called Israeli criticism of attacks on its settlement policy unsustainable in an opinion piece published Sunday by The New York Times, doubling down on comments earlier in the week that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said encouraged terrorism. In the piece entitled, "Don't Shoot the Messenger, Israel," Ban reiterates many of his earlier comments to Security Council Tuesday, calling Israeli settlement activity "an affront to the Palestinian people," adding that "it is human nature to resist occupation." He also called for a freeze on settlement activity, which most of the international community views Israeli settlements in the West Bank as illegal or illegitimate."Criticism of the United Nations—or attacks against me—comes with the territory. But when heartfelt concerns about shortsighted or morally damaging policies emanate from so many sources, including Israel's closest friends, it cannot be sustainable to keep lashing out at every well-intentioned critic," Ban wrote.

Dozens killed by bombs in Syria, clouding UN peace session

GENEVA (AP)—A triple bombing killed at least 50 people in a predominantly Shiite suburb south of the Syrian capital of Damascus on Sunday even as a U.N. mediator held his first meeting with members of the main opposition group that seeks progress on humanitarian issues before it will join formal talks on ending the five-year civil war. The attacks were claimed by militants from the Islamic State group, and Syria's delegate to the U.N.-sponsored peace talks said the violence confirmed the connection between "terrorism" and "some political groups"—a reference to those who oppose President Bashar Assad. The blasts went off in the Damascus suburb of Sayyda Zeinab, about 600 meters (yards) from one of the holiest shrines for Shiite Muslims. Syria's state news agency SANA said the attackers detonated a car bomb at a bus stop and that two suicide bombers then set off more explosives as rescuers rushed to the area. State TV showed several burning cars and a scorched bus, as well as blown out windows, twisted metal and large holes in the facade of a nearby apartment building. The golden-domed Shiite shrine itself was not damaged.

Focus



Decades-long search for "Mr. Wonder" ENDS WITH ARREST

AP

In this Jan. 25 2016, photo provided by the U.S. Marshals Service shows Frank Szeles after his arrest in Bonita, Calif. Louisiana authorities claim Szeles is 76-year old fugitive Frank John Selas III, a children's TV show host known as "Mr. Wonder" who fled Louisiana in 1979 amid allegations that he sexually abused several kids during a camping retreat. Szeles told a judge Wednesday he is not Selas.

BONITA, Calif. (AP)—Neighbors in a well-to-do section of this San Diego suburb knew him as Frank Szeles, a friendly Cub Scouts leader who frequently gave swimming lessons to young children in his backyard pool.

The federal agents who arrested him last week knew him by a different name: "Mr. Wonder," the host of a popular children's television show who vanished decades ago amid allegations that he sexually abused several kids during a camping retreat in central Louisiana.

The man who faced a San Diego judge Wednesday denied he is the 76-year-old fugitive named Frank John Selas III who allegedly fled to Brazil in 1979 after Louisiana authorities secured a warrant for his arrest.

Back in Louisiana, Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office investigators are convinced the right man is in custody. Meanwhile, officials in California are suddenly facing fears that Selas could have preyed on other children during the 37 years that he eluded capture.

"It's absolutely shocking the level of access that this guy had to children, even now," said Steve Jurman, supervisory deputy U.S. marshal in San Diego. "If there's a playbook for pedophiles, he checked off every single box."

Jurman said Selas had moved to California by 1985 and legally changed his last name to Szeles in 1992. Investigators in Louisiana believe Selas lived in other places—including Chicago; Darien, Connecticut; South Royalton, Vermont; and Sheffield, Massachusetts—after he returned from South America in the early 1980s.

Although no reports of other victims have surfaced outside Louisiana, some see an alarming pattern of behavior that followed the fugitive suspect to the community near the Mexican border where he lived with his wife.

Szeles' family was in court Wednesday but didn't speak with reporters. Defense attorney Marc Carlos read a statement from the family describing him as "well-loved, respected and supported by his family and friends and the community here in San Diego."

The man known as Szeles once served as a Cub Scouts pack leader in Bonita but was removed from the position several years ago for failing to comply with the organization's "youth protection policies and procedures," the Boy Scouts of America said in a statement. The statement says a parent had made an unspecified complaint that didn't relate to scouting.

Szeles also was removed from "all positions related to children" at his Mormon congregation in San Diego for failing to comply with the church's "child protection policies," according to Eric Hawkins, a Utah-based spokesman for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"When a parent later expressed a generalized concern about his behavior toward a child, the church urged the parent to report this to authorities," Hawkins said in an email to The Associated Press.

A company called Szeles Enterprises organized Cub Scouts day camps, swimming lessons and Saturday field trips to boys as young as 5. Jurman said investigators are confident the website belongs to the suspect.

The Chula Vista Elementary School District is reviewing whether Szeles had connections with any of its 45 schools, which enroll roughly 30,000 students. A flier promoting Szeles Enterprises' programs for kids said the district was distributing it "as a public service."

"To have someone with this alleged background literally in our backyard is a concern," said school district spokesman Anthony Millican.

Selas' former co-workers at KNOE-TV in north Louisiana remember him as a strange, standoffish man who didn't fit in at the Monroe-based station, but nobody saw any sinister motives behind his "Mr. Wonder" creation.

Former co-workers said the station owner who hired Selas in 1977 met him on an airplane and offered him a job without checking his credentials, which supposedly included a stint at an Oklahoma television station.

Selas initially worked as a news anchor, but the experiment only lasted a few days. Former KNOE employee Tom Cole said viewers flooded the station with calls to complain about Selas' high-pitched, awkward delivery of the news.

"He was horrible," Cole recalls.

But his children's show was a hit. It started as a weekly program but went daily as its popularity grew.

Often wearing a top hat and tuxedo coat, Selas presided over races and other contests between teams of children bused to the station from local schools. He even served as grand marshal of a Christmas parade.

"All the kids wanted to be on it," said Gary Miers, who started working at KNOE as a radio disc jockey in 1979.

The popularity of Selas' on-air persona didn't extend to his co-workers.

"He was very odd," Cole said. "Nobody could stand him." Cole said the station didn't sponsor the children's camping trip that Selas organized in June 1979, but it allowed him to promote it during his show.

Investigators claim Selas sexually abused at least seven children during the camping trip to Kisatchie National Forest in central Louisiana. After parents complained about the alleged abuse, Rapides Parish authorities obtained a warrant for his arrest on two counts of obscene behavior with a juvenile.

He apparently planned other such trips. A flier for "Camping Weekends with Mr. Wonder" said some trips would only be for boys between 5 and 11 years old, but "Mrs. Wonder" would help supervise other co-ed trips.

After he disappeared, Selas' wife told investigators that her husband fled in a car that later turned up in a Dallas suburb, according to the sheriff's office.

One of the detectives assigned to the case was William Earl Hilton, now Rapides Parish's elected sheriff. Hilton recently asked the U.S. Marshals Service to take a fresh look at finding Selas. They found the man known as Szeles in California about two weeks ago.

Frank Szeles lived for years in a well-heeled section of Bonita.

Neighbors said parents frequently took their children to Szeles' large cul-de-sac house for swimming lessons. Haywood Gammon, who lives next door and knew Szeles and his wife since 1999, said children visited Szeles' home throughout the summer.

Gammon said his neighbor was friendly and quick to shake hands.

"My main interaction was throwing the plastic balls over the fence" when they strayed off Szeles' property, he said.

The website for Szeles Enterprises touts the owner's experience teaching grades one through six overseas, coaching sports, teaching Sunday school and being PTA president at an elementary school less than three miles from his house. The ad, dated 2013, says the activities are for boys ages 5 to 11.

The website says the company's owner and his wife have four children and nine grandchildren.

Neighbors said they had no suspicions over the years.

"I was very surprised (by the arrest), but it's not totally out of the question because when you have someone who associates with children a lot you never know," Gammon said.

No one answered the door at Szeles' home on Wednesday.

The marshals found a Cub Scouts cap in the suspect's house when they arrested him without incident Monday. Jurman said Selas acknowledged to authorities that he changed his name. Carlos, the defense attorney, said the allegations were "a shock to everyone."

He said the family told him other adults were present when Szeles was with children. As for the Mormon church's decision to remove him from contact with children, Carlos said the allegations couldn't have been serious enough for the church to notify police.

Rapides Parish investigators believe Darien is Selas' hometown, but Darien Police Sgt. Jeremiah Marron said he couldn't find any records related to Selas or any of the other names attributed to him.

"I asked our most veteran officers if they knew anything and the consensus was that they had never heard of him," Marron wrote in an email.

The man believed to be Selas remains in jail without bail in San Diego. He is due in court Feb. 11 for a hearing to establish his identity. In the meantime, Louisiana authorities are reviving a long-dormant investigation.

The Rapides Parish sheriff said his detectives have spoken to some of Selas' alleged victims from the 1979 camping trip and they are willing to testify.

"It's been a long road and it's not nearly over," Hilton said.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Mitsubishi fades to near-black with 2016 Outlander GT 3-row crossover

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

MCT

The redesigned 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander is a budget three-row crossover with good fuel economy but not much else to stand out from the competition.

As Mitsubishi retreats from U.S. shores, cresting at 2 percent market share in 2002 before dipping to less than one-half of 1 percent since 2009, it has cast the redesigned Outlander crossover to hook budget-minded buyers looking for good warranties and better fuel economy.

But those traits don't quite appeal to the larger appetites of the American car buyer, which is why the three-row Outlander crossover and its smaller but better-selling stablemate, the Outlander Sport, are the Japanese company's great American hope.

The Outlander GT that we tested, featuring a 3.0-liter V-6 engine and all-wheel drive, gives budget-minded shoppers a top-of-the-line option.

The exterior is mostly indistinguishable from the rest of the look-alike crossover class, but adds 18-inch alloy wheels and some side cladding. There might be minor dimension differences, but the Outlander is clearly a crossover rather than an SUV, especially when it comes to that third-row selling point.

But we couldn't tell there was a third row in the Outlander until we went looking for it. More spacious — and minivan-esque — three-row utility vehicles are the Honda Pilot, Ford Explorer or Dodge Durango.

Cramming three rows in a crossover means there are some compromises. Pull straps provide easy access to flip down or pull up the third-row seating, but the headrests are stowed in the cargo floor. Too bad heads can't be stored there for the ride because there isn't much room.

The second-row 60/40 split seats slide forward for easy rear access, or fold down for more flat interior room. You might get away with hauling five kids — without boosters — to the birthday party or the game, but there better not be many gifts or much gear.

Fitting an adult in the third row is problematic, as it is with most three-row crossovers. It's possible to haul out-of-towners a few miles to the graduation or other family function as long as everyone in the first two rows moves their seats forward, including the driver. A family of five will fit fine until the teen years.

The Outlander GT, with its heated leather seats and leather steering wheel, doesn't look or feel cheap. But the cabin was loud enough to make me think I had window or door cracked, even around town.

Behind the wheel, the GT's 3.0-liter V-6 is adequate but never fast. It's difficult to imagine the pokey feel of the 2.4-liter engine standard in lesser trims.

While the 2.4-liter engine option uses a continuously variable transmission, the 3.0-liter GT comes with a 6-speed automatic transmission with paddle shifters that Mitsubishi calls "sporttronic." They let the driver rev the engine as high as desired, but that and the feel of the shifters are as sporty as it gets; downshifting takes care of itself if you forget.

In the center of the console is the "Super All-Wheel control" button that lets the driver select between varying all-wheel drive modes, including an eco mode that reverts to two-wheel drive when four isn't necessary.

Eco mode returned excellent fuel economy of 25.9 mpg at highway speed, though the EPA estimate is 27 mpg highway (20 city). We hit winter weather with snow covering ice that the AWD system was able to negotiate at cautious speeds without a problem in Snow mode.

There is a separate manual for the multitouch screen (infotainment), and you're going to need it as Mitsubishi's system is the worst we've tested, largely because of unrecognizable voice commands. Saying "voice command help," as the manual suggests, consistently returned "voice command not recognized."

Poor voice command recognition means navigation must be done with the narrow touch pad, and many of the functions can't be used when the vehicle is in motion.

The button to access the vehicle info display for fuel economy, trip odometer or directions is inconveniently located on the left side of the dash panel, behind the steering wheel, along with controls for advanced safety features such as lane departure, part of the $3,350 GT package. Most new cars keep the vehicle info display button on the steering wheel for easy access.

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Mitsubishi Outlander GT at a glance

- Vehicle type: 3-row crossover
- Base price: $30,995
- As tested: $34,345 (excluding $850 delivery)
- MPG: 20 city, 27 highway
- Engine: 3.0-liter V-6
- Transmission: 6-speed automatic with all-wheel drive
- Parting shot: Despite good fuel economy and a third row, the Outlander GT doesn't stand out from the competition.

Under the Hood: Overheated engine? Don't do this

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: In the middle of the summer, a friend of mine said his car had suddenly overheated on the highway, and in order to continue driving, he opened all the car's vents and turned the heater on full blast. His reasoning was that doing so would deflect the heat from the engine so it would be possible to drive the extra 3 miles to a service station that would replace the car's broken hose. When he said that, my head nearly exploded since it really didn't seem to make sense. However, I couldn't come up with an alternative except to say that I wouldn't do it. The question is, does it make sense? Thanks,

_Dan Nelis

A: Oh boy! I confess to doing this a couple times during my life but it is not a good idea. Turning on the heater and fan full blast when an engine is overheating can provide some additional heat transfer from the engine. But this would only be helpful if there is enough coolant in the system to reach the heater core, which is often the first component to lose circulation when the coolant level drops. After seeing more than a few engines tragically damaged from overheating, I would save this maneuver only for an emergency situation.

It's been awhile since we've discussed cooling system hoses. Many folks may not be aware that hoses typically deteriorate from the inside out and true condition is difficult to determine. For this reason it is prudent to renew hoses every four or five years to play it safe. If a hose feels mushy, or a ribbed effect can be felt as it is massaged, these are signs of trouble looming. I am a fan of carrying a roll of silicone rescue tape and a container of potable water along in the trunk. This type of tape has an amazing ability to hold greasy and wet things together and could be used to make an emergency repair to a split hose. The water may also be a valuable resource for additional situations.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood(at)earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†Augustin Mareham Tagabuel

Born to life on May 28, 1949 and called to Eternal life on January 28, 2016

His gentle nature, warm personality, and loving spirit will forever live in the hearts of those who loved him near and far.

Rosary is being said at Kristo Rai Church at 7:30pm and daily mass is being offered at 6:00a.m.

The body of our beloved †Augustin will depart CHC Morgue on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 3:00pm and will proceed to his residence in China Town for the wake.
Rosary will be said at 7pm.

On Friday, February 5, 2016 at 10:30am, the body of our beloved †Augustin will be escorted from his residence to Kristo Rai Church for Mass of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 11:00am and will be laid to rest at the Mount Carmel Cemetery thereafter.

Eternal Father,
I offer You the Body and Blood,
Soul and Divinity
of Your dearly beloved Son,
Our Lord, Jesus Christ,
In atonement for our sins
and those of the whole world.

Ghilisóów and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Family

Life & Style

'Kung Fu Panda 3' kicks box office with $41 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Kung Fu Panda 3" kicked its way to the top of the North American box office with a respectable $41 million, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

The DreamWorks Animation film cost a reported $145 million to make and earned a strong "A" CinemaScore from audiences—70 percent of whom were families.

"It's a bold move to take a franchise which has had great success in that summer corridor and move it into late January, which is generally considered a very slow time," Rentrak's senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said. "It also filled a huge void in the marketplace."

The first film opened to $60.2 million in 2008 and the second to $47.7 million in 2011.

For Fox, switching up the release was a no-brainer after seeing the successes of "The Lego Movie" and last year's "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" in this time frame.

"We know that when the market conditions are right, this business really is a 365-day-a-year business," said Chris Aronson, Fox's domestic distribution chief. "We saw an opportunity and we grabbed it. We're thrilled with the results."

There are a number of winter holidays coming up where kids will be out of school and "Zootopia," 2016's next big animated release, doesn't open until March 4.

AP

This image released by DreamWorks Animation shows character Mei Mei, voiced by Kate Hudson performing a ribbon dance in a scene from the animated film, "Kung Fu Panda 3."

The animated sequel also fared much better than the weekend's other new openers, like Disney's Coast Guard adventure "The Finest Hours," which debuted in fourth place with $10.3 million.

Based on a real life 1952 rescue mission, "The Finest Hours" stars Chris Pine, Casey Affleck and Ben Foster and cost around $80 million to make.

Dergarabedian thinks that the nautical theme might have seemed too similar to the recently released "In the Heart of the Sea" for audiences.

The opening is similar to last year's "McFarland, USA," another fact-based drama from Disney, which opened with $11 million in late February and went on to earn $44.4 million.

The "Fifty Shades of Grey" parody "Fifty Shades of Black," meanwhile, earned a modest $6.2 million, but it only cost a reported $5 million to produce. Marlon Wayans co-wrote, stars in and produced the R-rated takeoff.

"Spoof movies and parodies have a very mixed box office record," Dergarabedian said. "The reviews are never good on these movies. You have to really hope you're riding a wave of the popularity of the movie you're spoofing."

"Fifty Shades of Grey" was released last February and its sequel isn't expected until next year.

The Weinstein Company's Natalie Portman-led Western "Jane Got a Gun" misfired out of the gates, bringing in only $803,000 on a $25 million budget.

Overall, there wasn't much space for newcomers with strong holdovers like "The Revenant" and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which took second and third place with $12.4 million and $10.8 million, respectively. Both fell only 23 percent from last weekend.

Notably, Fox's "The Revenant," once considered a possible box office disaster with its gritty subject matter and reported $135 million budget, has earned $138.2 million to date in six weeks in theaters thanks in part to its awards hot streak with multiple wins for star Leonardo DiCaprio and a host of high-profile Oscar nominations.

"It's a marvelous thing for us, for the industry, for filmmaking in general. To have a hold like this is really heartening," Aronson said. "This is a pretty good weekend. There's a very balanced marketplace here. There's something for everyone out there now, and I've always said that's when this business is at its best."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** $41 million ($75.7 million international).
2. **"The Revenant,"** $12.4 million ($24.3 million international).
3. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens,"** $10.8 million ($12.6 million international).
4. **"The Finest Hours,"** $10.3 million ($1.6 million international).
5. **"Ride Along 2,"** $8.3 million ($5.1 million international).
6. **"The Boy,"** $7.9 million ($3.5 million international).
7. **"Dirty Grandpa,"** $7.6 million ($5.5 million international).
8. **"The 5th Wave,"** $7 million ($13 million international).
9. **"Fifty Shades of Black,"** $6.2 million ($200,000 international).
10. **"13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi,"** $6 million ($1.5 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to Rentrak:

1. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** $75.7 million.
2. **"The Revenant,"** $24.3 million.
3. **"The 5TH Wave,"** $13 million.
4. **"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip,"** $12.8 million.
5. **"Star Wars: The Force Awakens,"** $12.6 million.
6. **"Creed,"** $7.5 million.
7. **"The Big Short,"** $6.8 million.
8. **"The Hateful Eight,"** $6.5 million.
9. **"Daddy's Home,"** $6.4 million.
10. **"Dirty Grandpa,"** $5.5 million.

Famed character actor Abe Vigoda recalled as a class act

NEW YORK (AP)—Nobody who knew "The Godfather" and "Barney Miller" actor Abe Vigoda made mourners smile through their tears Sunday faster than comedian and friend Gilbert Gottfried.

"This is the 20th time we buried Abe Vigoda," Gottfried announced to a memorial service audience of more than 100.

It was a reference to a running joke about whether Vigoda, the character actor best known for his portrayal of Mafia soldier Sal Tessio in "The Godfather," was dead or alive—the result of a false report of his death decades ago.

The true end came Tuesday when Vigoda died in his sleep at age 94 at his daughter's Woodland Park, New Jersey, home, where he went to escape the hazards of a blizzard.

"His big wish was not to be alone and not to die alone," said the daughter, Carol Vigoda-Fuchs. "So I'm grateful he got what he wanted."

Vigoda's step into fame came when director Francis Ford Coppola plucked him from obscurity as a supporting actor in New York theater for a role in the Oscar-winning "The Godfather."

AP

A police officer gets a closer look at a painting of Abe Vigoda during his funeral service in New York, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016.

His fame was cemented with his comic turn as over-the-hill detective Phil Fish in "Barney Miller," which ran from 1975 to 1982.

The program for the memorial service at Riverside Memorial Chapel featured a photograph of the actor in a suit and tie with a line from Coppola's movie: "Can you get me off the hook ... for old times' sake?"

It was one of Vigoda's more memorable lines from the 1972 classic as his character, the doomed Tessio, pleaded for his life after he had turned against the Corleone family. His request was denied.

"Abe Vigoda, it's like his name became a punchline, but in a nice way, a loving way," Gottfried said. "He was just one of those people you just laughed looking at him."

Family members remembered Vigoda as a true New Yorker who grew up during the Great Depression in Brooklyn and worked his way up from selling potatoes from a push cart on the streets of New York City to a household name for his appearances on the big screen.

"He was just a regular guy," Vigoda-Fuchs said. "He loved his fans, he taught us great values. He was very squeaky clean. ... I'm very thankful he was able to share his many gifts with everybody and made everybody laugh and be happy."

The printed program included written tributes from fellow actors, including Robert Duvall, who said it was impossible to watch "The Godfather" and not remember Vigoda's performance.

Fellow "Godfather" actor Al Pacino sent flowers and a card to Vigoda's family, recalling his friend as a "gentle kind soul" whose personality shined through his work.

Those who spoke at the memorial, where a large picture of Vigoda rested beside white flowers and before the crowd, included former New York City Mayor David Dinkins.

"This city, this country, this world are all better places because Abe Vigoda was here," Dinkins said.

As the service ended, the theme from "The Godfather" serenaded the departing crowd.

Fox's ambitious 'Grease: Live' shines despite rain

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Rain didn't dampen the spirits or performances of the cast and crew behind Fox's "Grease: Live."

The ambitious three-hour production, broadcast live from 14 different sets at Warner Bros. Studios, worked the Southern California drizzle into the show Sunday, incorporating umbrellas into outdoor dance numbers and even an ironic line into the script: "Let's just hope it doesn't rain."

Behind-the-scenes footage shot during commercial breaks and shown on Facebook revealed wet golf carts zipping along slick pavement to move actors and cameras between sets. Members of the live audience wore disposable rain ponchos.

The broadcast lost audio for a few seconds during its second hour, but it's not clear if the issue was related to the weather.

Mario Lopez, who had a small role in the show and hosted the backstage Facebook videos, said the rain began just before the show did at 7 p.m. E.T.

"It was like three, two, one: action. Rain," he said.

"Grease: Live" maintained a solid social-media presence throughout its television broadcast, with an endless stream of tweets, retweets and Facebook posts appearing steadily during its three hours.

The Broadway-meets-Hollywood hybrid follows the teen love story of Sandy and Danny, played by Julianne Hough and theater veteran Aaron Tveit, with a supercharged blend that weds theater's immediacy and cinematic flair.

"Grease: Live" is building on the current small-screen fascination with musicals, which started with NBC's live telecasts including "The Sound of Music" and "The Wiz" and may include "Hairspray," also from NBC, and, from ABC, a possible movie update of "Dirty Dancing."

Sunday's production was dedicated to Greg Hudgens, father of Vanessa Hudgens, who played Rizzo. She tweeted Sunday morning that her dad had died the night before and she would perform in his honor.

The musical opened with an elaborate, continuous shot of Jessie J singing "Grease (is the word)" as she roamed the vast soundstage before stepping into the drizzle. Boys II Men punctuated her performance with a cameo, and the crooners returned later in the show to sing "Beauty School Dropout."

Original "Grease" stars Didi Conn, who played Frenchy, and Barry Pearl, who co-starred as Doody, also made cameos.

Cosby calls himself mentor, more to accuser in criminal case

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby's attraction to Andrea Constand began the moment he spied her across a Temple University gym in about 2002. The flirting—some would say grooming—began almost immediately.

When Constand, a Temple women's basketball staffer, mentioned that her back was bothering her, the 66-year-old comedian offered his "layman's" fix in the women's locker room.

"It's one where she gets on my back with her back and her arms come under mine and I grab her and I say, 'Now you relax,'" Cosby said in a 2005 deposition. "I go up and I come down and I give that jolt and it's supposed to line the vertebrae."

The friendship that followed between Temple's most famous booster and the then-31-year-old employee colors the sex-assault prosecution that starts in earnest Tuesday, when Cosby's lawyers will ask a judge to throw out charges stemming from a 2004 encounter at his suburban Philadelphia home.

In Cosby's mind, Constand had reacted "very, very favorably" to him the day they met at Temple's arena.

A university trustee, he began inviting her to dinner at his home, at first with others but later alone. Cosby was both a sounding board and someone who could open doors for a woman considering a career change. In November 2003, he summoned Constand to the Foxwoods casino in Connecticut, where he was performing, and arranged for her to have dinner with a casino executive in his suite. But he voiced frustration when she failed to follow through on his job leads.

AP

In this Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2015, file photo, Bill Cosby leaves the Cheltenham Township Police Department where he was processed after being arraigned on a felony charge of aggravated indecent assault in Elkins Park, Pa.

"Here's a mentor, Bill Cosby, who is in the business—Bill Cosby, who happens to know something about what to do—and Andrea is not picking up on it," Cosby said in the deposition, part of the sex-assault lawsuit Constand filed in 2005.

In the deposition, Cosby paints himself as Constand's friend, mentor and occasional partner in sex "play" that stopped short of intercourse, lest she fall in love with him.

Constand's lawyers have since pointed out that she is gay and was dating a woman at the time.

Basketball, a common bond between them, had taken Constand from a standout high school career in Toronto to a 1996 NIT championship with the University of Arizona to semi-pro ball in Europe and finally a job with Temple women's basketball program.

By her third season, though, Constand was restless, wondering if this was the end of the road for her life in basketball. She spoke frequently about it to Cosby, during phone calls, at social events and during the approximately half-dozen visits she made to his Cheltenham home.

Cosby, in the deposition, described at least two separate nights when they engaged in sex play there—the first time, after she had four drinks, and the second time, after he gave her unidentified pills. (Cosby said he never drank or did illegal drugs, although he acknowledged getting quaaludes in the 1970s to use on women he hoped to seduce.)

The criminal case involves the second night, in January 2004.

Cosby said: "Andrea came to the house. ... We talked about Temple University. We talked about her position. And then I went upstairs and I got three pills ... because she was talking about stress. ... We sat for 15 or 20 minutes talking. I then said, 'Let's go into the living room.' ... I asked her to have a sit down on the sofa. We were still talking. But then we began to neck and we began to touch and we began to feel and kiss and kiss back."

Cosby described the "digital penetration" that followed as something of a favor, to help her unwind.

"I was hoping (it) had been a sort of a contribution to happiness, friendship, a moment that we shared," Cosby said.

Constand later said she was too drugged to remember it clearly.

Cosby, in a taped phone call with Constand and her distraught mother a year later, confirmed that he gave her pills and described the sex act.

"Tell your mother you were awake. Tell your mother about the orgasm. Tell your mother how we talked," Cosby begged on the phone call.

Over the next few days, his agents and handlers made a flurry of calls to their family home to offer an educational fund or suggest they meet him at his next gig in Miami. The Constands instead gave the tape to police in Canada, who referred the case to Pennsylvania investigators.

Then-Montgomery County District Attorney Bruce Castor declined to press charges in what he viewed as a "he said, she said" case.

When a federal judge released portions of Cosby's civil deposition last year, prosecutors re-opened the case. District Attorney Kevin Steele weighed Cosby's testimony, and the dozens of similar accusations that have followed, and filed charges last month before the 12-year statute of limitations expired.

Defense lawyers will argue Tuesday that Cosby had a deal that he would never be charged. In an unusual twist, Castor will be their key witness.

The AP generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they agree to have their names published, as Constand has done.\

'Love Story' actors return to Harvard 45 years later

AP

In this March 8, 1971, file photo, Ryan O'Neal, right, and Ali MacGraw smile after their arrival at the Odeon Theatre, Leicester Square in London, to attend the Royal Film showing of "Love Story."

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actors Ali MacGraw and Ryan O'Neal are returning to Harvard University more than 45 years after the release of their 1970 classic "Love Story."

The duo, now in their 70s, will be reflecting on their careers Monday afternoon in a conversation moderated by arts journalist Alicia Anstead.

MacGraw and O'Neal currently are co-starring in a national tour of "Love Letters," which is about a man and a woman who maintain contact over 50 years through notes, cards and letters.

The play begins a one-week engagement at Boston's Citi Shubert Theatre Tuesday.

The actors are expected to drive to Harvard in an antique MG convertible similar to the one featured in "Love Story." That film was about a wealthy Harvard student who marries a less wealthy student over his parents' objections.

Neighbors' neglected dog is causing a big stink

DEAR ABBY: We recently bought a new home and have discovered that our elderly neighbors are caring for their grandson's dog. The dog lives in a 3-by-6-foot area right next to our patio. The poor animal receives little attention and is rarely cleaned up after. As a consequence, our patio reeks of dog feces, and we are overwhelmed by flies.

I feel bad for the couple, and I resent the grandson for allowing his dog to be neglected and for failing to have any consideration for the stench that makes our patio off-limits to us. How can I politely ask my new neighbors to clean up after their dog so we can enjoy our new home without offending them or creating a bad neighbor situation?

"SHOO FLY" IN BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

DEAR SHOO FLY: If your neighbors are unable to properly care for their grandson's dog, they shouldn't have it. A dog is a responsibility—the animal needs feeding, exercise, social contact and to be cleaned up after. To shirk that responsibility is cruel.

It would not be offensive to inform these neighbors that the odor and flies from their dog run are so overwhelming that they prevent you from enjoying your patio. Speak up, or they'll think you haven't noticed. If this continues, call animal control or a pet rescue group.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a rocky relationship for 10 months, and I'm not sure how you get out. I have tried multiple times to leave, but every time I tell her, she begs me not to, says horrible things and threatens to kill herself. She says she'll never be happy again, that I "always do this" and it hurts her so much. It makes me feel so bad I just give in and give her what she wants.

She doesn't trust me. I have to give her all of my passwords and she checks my phone daily. She has to know everything I'm doing, and if I don't tell her, look out! The next world war is going to happen. I have told her many times that if she can't trust me, there's no way we can be together because it will make a miserable life for both of us.

Her constant worrying whether I'm going to leave her is starting to get to me. I really can't take this anymore. I have considered some extreme things to get out because I'm so unhappy, and I know she is, too. I have tried everything. Please help me.

STUCK IN A NIGHTMARE

DEAR STUCK: It is time you realize that you can't fix what's wrong with this woman. Her insecurities are a bottomless pit. You have described a hostage relationship, not a loving one.

So pack your things and get out of there NOW. If she threatens suicide and you know how to contact her family, alert them after you have gone. But do not pause, do not explain and do not look back. Your safety and your sanity depend upon it.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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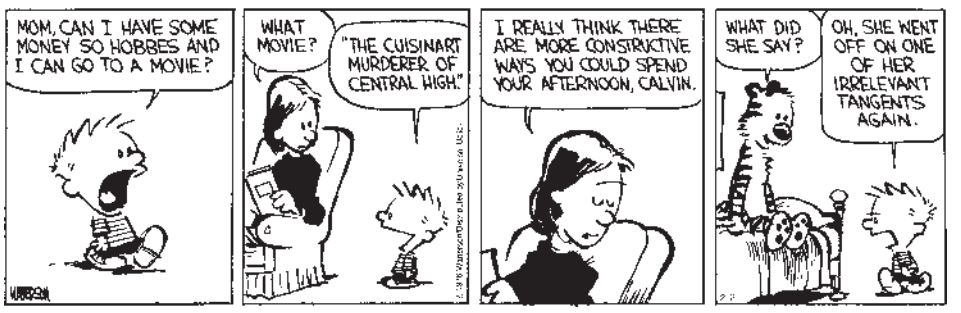
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

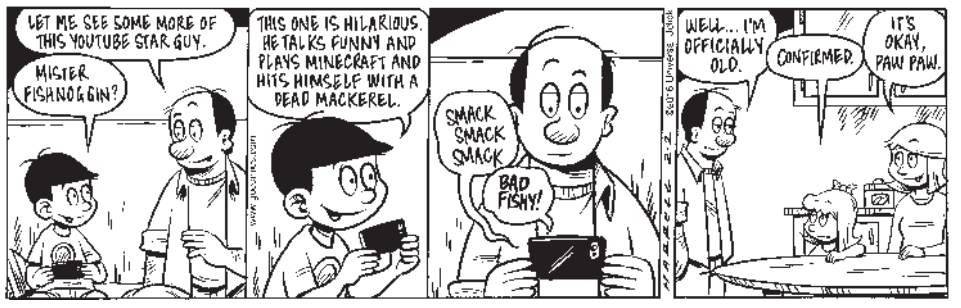

MOM, CAN I HAVE SOME MONEY SO HOBBES AND I CAN GO TO A MOVIE?
WHAT MOVIE?
"THE CUISINART MURDERER OF CENTRAL HIGH."
I REALLY THINK THERE ARE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE WAYS YOU COULD SPEND YOUR AFTERNOON, CALVIN.
WHAT DID SHE SAY?
OH, SHE WENT OFF ON ONE OF HER IRRELEVANT TANGENTS AGAIN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

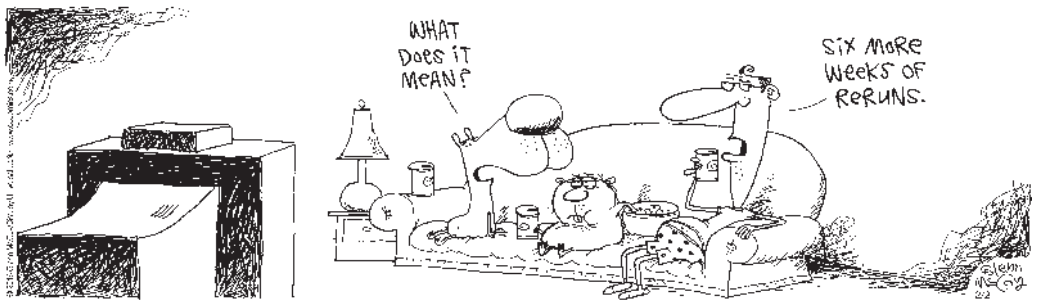
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LET ME SEE SOME MORE OF THIS YOUTUBE STAR GUY.
MISTER FISHNOGGIN?
THIS ONE IS HILARIOUS. HE TALKS FUNNY AND PLAYS MINECRAFT AND HITS HIMSELF WITH A DEAD MACKEREL.
SMACK SMACK SMACK
BAD FISHY!
WELL... I'M OFFICIALLY OLD.
CONFIRMED.
IT'S OKAY, PAW PAW.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 GI dining hall
5 Hot tub
8 Cote calls
12 Jazzy Fitzgerald
13 ISP giant
14 Aware of
15 Bar
16 Majesty
18 How hordes move
20 Sad sack's lament
21 Spring month
22 Afternoon social
23 Barbecue site
26 Inactive, as a volcano
30 Bobby of Hockey
31 Hardly any
32 Large snake
33 Country named for an imaginary line
36 Not hidden
38 Pear-shaped fruit
39 "Norma —"
40 Warning sound
43 Prom date's gift
47 "Que Sera, Sera" singer
49 Kilt wearer
50 With (Fr.)
51 Alias abbr.
52 Exile isle
53 Arizona city
54 Its cap. is Brussels
55 A deadly sin

DOWN
1 Simple
2 Flair
3 Slender
4 Deli meat
5 Impudent
6 Francis or Benedict, e.g.
7 100%
8 Actress Helena — Carter
9 Humorist Rooney
10 Teensy bit
11 Achy
17 Ornamental jug
19 — Paulo, Brazil
22 AAA job
23 "The Bells" author
24 Curved line
25 Capote nickname
26 Aachen article
27 Actor Vigoda
28 Fish-fowl insert
29 Make lace
31 Shore concealer
34 Chad's continent
35 Darkens
36 Galley item
37 Yacht or schooner
39 Shade of blue
40 Leading man?
41 Cupid's realm
42 God of war
43 Birthday dessert
44 Rights org.
45 Oodles
46 Coup d' —
48 Wee dollop

Solution time: 22 mins.

L	O	T			H	A	T		S	T	U	B
A	R	O	W		O	D	E		C	O	L	A
T	E	R	I		M	O	N	S	O	O	N	S
E	M	E	R	G	E		S	L	N	D	A	E
					U	T	E		M	E	L	
M	O	N	S	I	E	R	S		S	E	A	L
A	N	O		S	A	R	A	H		O	W	E
P	A	N	G		M	O	N	O	T	O	N	E
		S	I	B		L	I	L	Y			
S	T	E	N	O	S		T	A	R	T	A	R
M	O	N	G	O	L	I	A		A	R	L	O
C	R	S	E		O	R	R		N	I	B	S
E	Y	E	R		P	A	Y		T	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 2-2

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30			■	■	31			■	■	32		
33			34	35			■	36	37			
■	■	■	38			■	39			■	■	■
40	41	42			■	43				44	45	46
47					48			■	49			
50				■	51				52			
53				■	54			■	55			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 39; Christie Brinkley, 62; Brent Spiner, 67; Graham Nash, 74.

Happy Birthday: Your secretive nature will serve you well. Use your intuition to decipher what others are thinking and you will avert problems before they arise. A lifestyle change will be caused by outside influences. Make the most of whatever situation you face, and you will make unexpected gains. Change is good, but risk is not. Protect against injury and loss. Your numbers are 6, 13, 22, 25, 32, 34, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't share your opinion until you know how everyone around you feels about the concerns you have. An impulsive act will be costly. Avoid getting into a debate with someone who can affect your reputation, status or advancement. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): An expert will teach you something that allows you to express your talents in a diverse and trendy manner. An opportunity will catch your eye. Plan a trip that will encourage you to spend quality time with someone you love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't reveal how you feel or what you intend to do. Focus on how you can improve your life and future. Someone you work with will be jealous of your ability and could withhold information that will cause you to make a mistake. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll receive interesting information from an unusual source. Find a way to put what you discover to your advantage. A day trip or partnering with someone you encounter at a networking function will lead to a beneficial enterprise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Share your concerns with someone who is equipped to help you make a difference. Take on a physical and mental challenge that will enable you to strengthen your body, mind and soul, and show others what you are capable of doing. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Do something that excites you and will allow you to use your skills to improve your life. Friendly encounters will spark your imagination. Share an adventure with someone you love, and you will find common ground that will bring you closer together. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The plans you have will be thwarted by someone who is trying to control your life. Don't discuss what you want to do until you have fully explored your options and can deliver a flawless, well-researched presentation. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take on a project that is geared toward helping others or promoting a cause that concerns you. The information you gather will change your mind about what you want to do and how you want to live. A unique lifestyle change looks inviting. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Anxiety and frustration will result from a misunderstanding or poor information someone gives you. Stick close to home, where you can work quietly on your own to maximize your efforts of reaching your set goal. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let the changes other people make influence your decisions. It's important to be true to yourself and your beliefs. A joint venture with someone who is reliable will lead to bigger and better opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Emotional situations will escalate and are best handled diplomatically. An unbiased opinion will help you come to terms with the information you receive. A professional change will turn out to be more favorable than anticipated and could help boost your popularity. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Make love a priority. Take on a project that will help improve your lifestyle or contribute to an optimistic attitude. A creative or innovative project will help you look at life differently. Love will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted, perceptive and competitive. You are loyal and possessive.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		9				4	2
5								6
			2			3		
4		3	7	2				
			6		9			
				8	5	7		4
		1			7			
3								1
7	5				8		6	

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	3	9	5	6	8	4	1	2
1	8	6	2	4	3	5	9	7
5	2	4	1	9	7	6	3	8
9	6	8	7	1	5	2	4	3
4	1	2	3	8	9	7	5	6
3	7	5	6	2	4	9	8	1
6	5	3	9	7	1	8	2	4
8	9	7	4	3	2	1	6	5
2	4	1	8	5	6	3	7	9

Difficulty Level ★ 2/1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DAVID BOWIE (1947-2016) **Solution: 4 letters**

C	L	C	N	A	M	R	A	T	S	E	S	O	L	D
A	O	I	I	S	R	A	M	L	E	N	E	H	B	L
R	L	V	Z	T	W	M	O	O	N	A	G	E	O	I
H	R	A	E	A	Y	O	R	V	O	J	N	R	I	W
A	I	E	D	R	L	D	R	E	J	J	A	O	R	E
Z	G	B	K	D	S	E	T	L	T	O	H	E	E	C
N	A	P	O	U	I	R	X	N	D	H	C	S	M	N
O	N	E	N	S	D	N	A	A	S	N	D	N	R	A
I	I	G	A	T	S	Y	S	I	N	A	O	H	O	D
H	H	G	M	Z	O	O	L	A	N	D	E	R	F	S
S	C	Y	I	B	D	G	L	C	N	A	R	V	N	T
A	P	G	M	D	N	E	I	O	T	E	C	I	I	E
F	G	A	I	E	G	N	L	E	B	E	R	N	A	L
Y	L	T	C	N	G	Y	R	O	D	Y	K	N	U	H
F	Y	M	A	E	R	D	Y	A	D	S	E	D	U	D

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Aladdin Sane, Alexandria, Angela, Boss, Changes, China Girl, City, Covers, Dancing, Daydream, Dudes, Duke, Duncan, English, Fashion, Flamboyant, Heat, Heroes, Hunky Dory, Iman, Informer, Jane, John, Jones, Let's Dance, Live, Liza, London, Love, Mars, Modern, Moonage, Oddity, Peggy, Rebel, Show, Sold, Space, Stardust, Starman, Wild, World, Zahra, Ziggy, Zoolander

Yesterday's Answer: February

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Djokovic wins 6th title; Murray loses 5th final

AP
Novak Djokovic of Serbia reacts during his men's singles final match against Andy Murray of Britain at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—In five previous Australian Open wins, Novak Djokovic had never felt so much love.

After maintaining his perfect record in six finals at Melbourne Park—and extending his old friend Andy Murray's streak to five losses from five championship deciders Down Under—Djokovic had hundreds of Serbian fans singing and chanting his name so loudly he could barely hear questions in a TV interview.

While Djokovic was still celebrating his 6-1, 7-5, 7-6 (3) victory on Sunday night, equaling Roy Emerson's record of six Australian titles, Murray was rushing for the airport to catch a flight back to Britain to reunite with his pregnant wife.

"I never experienced this much crowd and this much love," Djokovic said. "I've had the fortune to win this trophy now six times, but I never experienced such support."

Djokovic has won the last three Grand Slam titles, and four of the last five, to lift his career haul to 11—equaling Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg in fifth place on the all-time list.

"I don't take anything for granted, even though I won last four out of five Grand Slams, played five finals, it's phenomenal," said Djokovic, reflecting on a period of time in which he was married, became a father and only lost one match in five major championships—the final of the French Open. "No doubt that I'm playing the best tennis of my life in the last 15 months.

"Everything is going well privately, as well, so I feel like I'm at the point in my life where everything is working in harmony. I'll try to keep it that way."

His next objective is a first Grand Slam title on clay to complete his collection. Djokovic has reached three finals at Roland Garros, but never won the French Open.

After getting on his hands and knees and kissing the court at Rod Laver Arena, and going to the stands to hug Boris Becker, his coach since 2014, Djokovic paid tribute to Murray in his post-match speech.

"You're a great champion, great friend, a great person who is very professional and committed to this sport," he said. "So I'm sure in the future you'll have more opportunities to fight for this trophy."

As a father himself, he didn't want to delay Murray's departure.

The 28-year-old Scotsman had his share of distractions in Australia. His wife, Kim, is due to have their first child in February and didn't travel with him. Kim's father, Nigel Sears, was in Australia as coach for Ana Ivanovic, but became ill and had to be rushed to a nearby hospital by ambulance while Murray was on court in his third-round match. After a night in hospital, Nigel Sears was well enough to return home, which meant Murray could stay in Australia and try to refocus on winning the title.

"It's been a tough few weeks for me away from the court," Murray said in his post-match speech, before turning his attention to his wife.

"You've been a legend the last two weeks. Thank you so much for all your support," he said, choking back tears and waving as he walked away from the microphone. "I'll be on the next flight home."

A little more than a half-hour later, at 11:15 p.m. local time, Murray said he was aiming for a 1 a.m. flight.

"It's been hard, regardless of today's result," he said. "I'm proud I got into this position— just quite looking forward to get home now."

Murray became only the second man to lose five finals at one major - Ivan Lendl lost five and won three U.S. Open finals in the 1980s.

Djokovic had won 10 of his previous 11 matches against Murray and was 21-9 in their career meetings—including four finals at the Australian Open.

Again, he was just too good.

Djokovic broke Murray twice in a 30-minute opening set, and twice again in the second and once in the third, and only had his serve broken twice.

He took a 6-1 lead in the tiebreaker, setting up five championship points, and finished it off with an ace in 2 hours, 53 minutes.

While Djokovic extended his perfect streak to six in Australian finals, Serena Williams' streak of 6-0 in Melbourne Park deciders ended in an upset loss to Angelique Kerber on Saturday night. Kerber went for a dip in the Yarra River on Sunday morning after a night of celebrations after prolonging Williams' bid to equal Steffi Graf's record 22 majors in the Open era.

Brewers' Braun says he's making progress after back surgery

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The makeover at Miller Park means outfielder Ryan Braun keeps moving up in seniority in the Brewers clubhouse.

At 32 and entering his 10th season in the majors, Braun seems to be embracing the youth movement in Milwaukee. He hopes to be back at 100 percent by the time the regular season starts following offseason back surgery.

"It's an interesting time for us," Braun said Sunday. "But I think we have probably more potential young, impact players than we've had in a long time, probably since I've been part of the organization."

The Brewers' best player is also realistic.

"But in the near term, certainly a lot of change and continuing transition, I think," Braun said at the team's annual winter fan outreach event at a downtown convention center.

The afternoon of autographs and meet-and-greets with players and coaches might be one of the highlights of what will likely be a challenging year.

General manager David Stearns is busily reshaping the roster more than three months after taking the job. On Saturday, Stearns dealt shortstop Jean Segura and pitcher Tyler Wagner to Arizona for infielder Aaron Hill, pitcher Chase Anderson and an infield prospect.

With three weeks to go until spring training, Stearns may not yet be done.

"At this point, we're comfortable with where we are from an offseason perspective," Stearns said. Still, "player transactions never end, we're always talking."

One of the most important priorities for the Brewers is getting Braun back in top shape to anchor the lineup. Scoring could be an issue even when the slugger is playing.

Braun said he just got cleared to do rotational exercises two weeks ago, and started hitting last week. He estimated that he was a couple weeks behind his typical offseason schedule.

Brewers' pitchers and catchers report to spring training in Phoenix on Feb. 19, with the rest of the team due two days later.

"Oh, I won't be 100 percent at the start of spring training, no," Braun said. "I think it will kind of be a gradual process to work my way back to 100 percent. But I feel pretty good."

At least Braun doesn't seem to be bothered by the nerve injury near the base of his right thumb that hampered him the last couple years. He needed therapy to help with the thumb last year. The treatment helped after Braun bounced back by hitting .285 with 25 homers and 84 RBI.

Athletes in Rio stay inside, slather on repellent for Zika

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Aline Silva has had the dengue fever twice, and she's not taking any chances with the Zika virus.

Silva is a Brazilian wrestler who hopes to win an Olympic medal in just over six months in Rio de Janeiro. At a test event on Sunday for the games- at a venue in Rio's new Olympic Park—she wasn't alone in being concerned.

Several non-Brazilian athletes talked about slathering on mosquito repellent, staying in their hotel rooms and away from the water and the beaches in order to avoid mosquitoes.

Brazil is an epicenter of the rapidly spreading Zika virus, a mosquito-borne disease that Brazilian scientists say is linked to a rare birth defect.

The growing international health emergency around Zika could scare athletes and fans from coming to South America's first Olympics as organizers prepare for hundreds of thousands of visitors.

"For me it's very worrying," said Silva, who said she applies repellent about every 90 minutes when she's away from home.

"Really, the biggest problem is in training and competing - when I can't use it (repellent)," she said. "I have had dengue twice, so I am aware about all of this. Maybe I am more worried than most."

Asked if other Brazilian athletes were concerned about Zika, Silva replied: "Yes, of course."

American wrestler Adeline Gray, a three-time world champion who will be an Olympic favorite for gold, raised the issue of Zika's link to birth defects and cases of babies being born with unusually small heads and possible brain damage.

"I think if I was planning to have a child next month, I would be extremely uneasy about this," said Gray, who competes in the 75-kilogram class. "Maybe that would have changed my decision (to come here)."

Gray said her coaches have banned her from going swimming in Brazil during her short stay.

"Unfortunately we're not spending too much time outside. We're wearing long sleeves, long pants and just making sure we have on as much bug spray as we can."

Gray said she's trying to avoid the distraction. As several reporters kept asking her questions, she politely stepped away to watch an on-going match at the new Carioca Arena 1.

Hornets send Lakers to record-tying 10th loss in row

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The road-weary Charlotte Hornets were making the final stop on a four-game trip after back-to-back losses. They were missing four key players due to injury.

Against a better team than the Los Angeles Lakers, all of that might have mattered.

Marvin Williams and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist had 19 points and 12 rebounds apiece, and the Hornets sent the Lakers to their franchise record-tying 10th consecutive defeat, 101-82 on Sunday night.

Kemba Walker had 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists for the Hornets, who hit 13 3-pointers and had a 59-42 rebounding edge in a decisive win over the Western Conference's worst team. Charlotte led for all but one possession, cruising back home even with four of its top eight scorers sidelined.

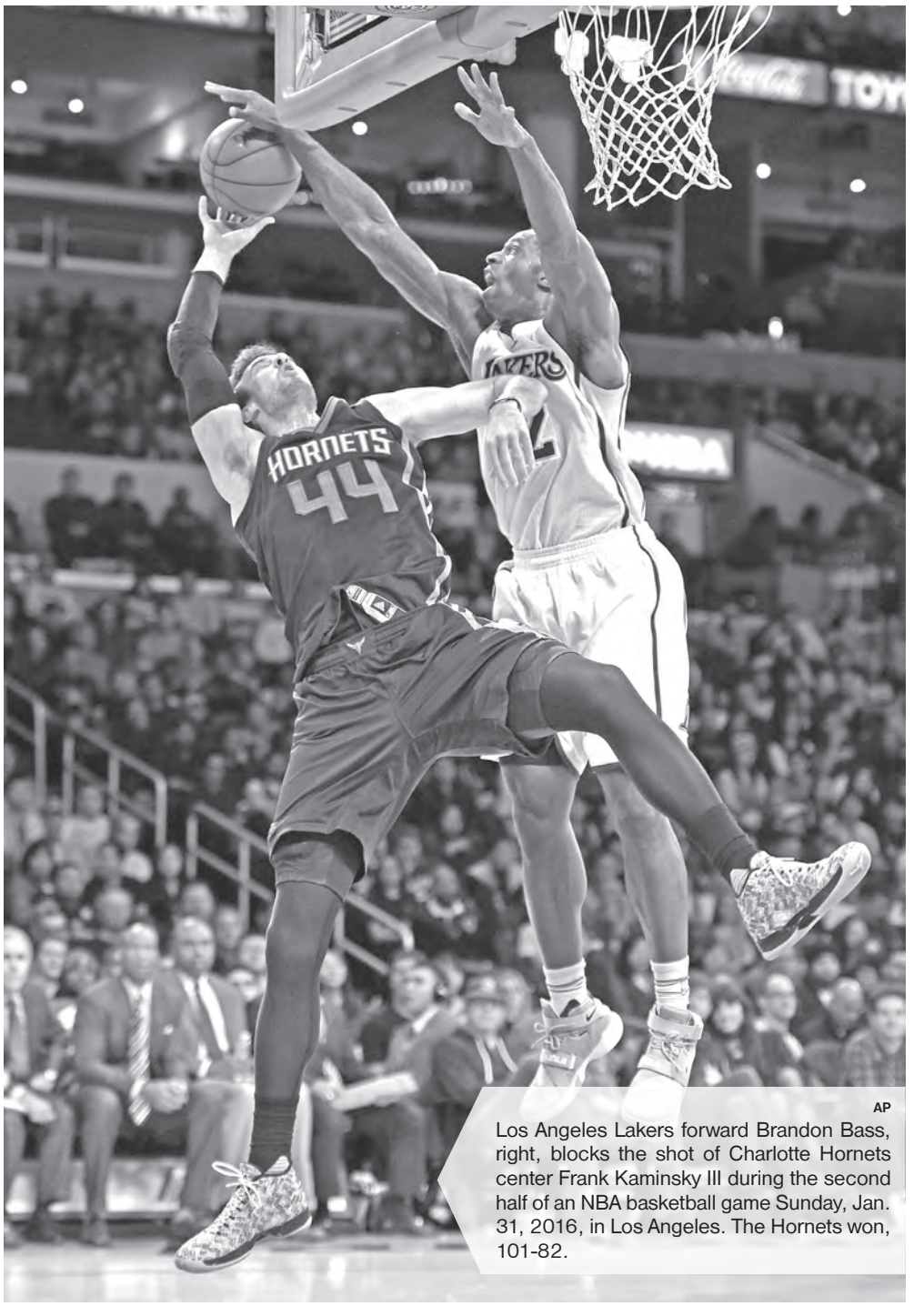
"We just wanted to end the road trip the right way, and the ending was great from the jump," Walker said. "The energy and intensity was all there. We did everything we wanted to do."

Kobe Bryant scored 23 points in 23 minutes, but the Lakers matched the 1994 team for the longest skid in the proud history of a franchise that's won 16 NBA championships. Los Angeles dropped to 9-41, guaranteeing three straight non-winning seasons for the first time since 1961.

"Honestly, it doesn't really matter," said Bryant, the 20-year NBA veteran. "I mean, does it make a (lousy) season less (lousy)? You just want a win, no matter what."

While Bryant hit four 3-pointers and excelled in his first 20-point performance since Jan. 7, his teammates received loud boos from a Staples Center crowd finally growing tired of their poor play in his farewell season.

"I think the fans are just as frustrated as we are," Lou Williams said. "Hopefully the boos weren't because of a lack of effort, because I thought our guys played all right. We just missed shots. Once we started missing shots, I think we just got demoralized. ... I think we've got a lot of guys in there right now with a lack of confidence, and we have to somehow get that back."



AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Brandon Bass, right, blocks the shot of Charlotte Hornets center Frank Kaminsky III during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, in Los Angeles. The Hornets won, 101-82.

Warriors 116, Knicks 95

In New York, Klay Thompson woke the Warriors from their slowest start of the season with 17 of his 34 points in the second quarter, Draymond Green tied Tom Gola's franchise record with his ninth triple-double of the season, and Golden State beat the New York Knicks 116-95 on Sunday night for its seventh straight victory.

Green made all nine shots as the Warriors (44-4) wrapped up January at 40 games over .500 even with a quiet 13 points from Stephen Curry. Green finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Warriors, who were held to a season-low 18 points in the first quarter.

They charged back with 64 over the middle two quarters and the Knicks had only 65 total through three.

Trail Blazers 96, Timberwolves 93

In Portland, CJ McCollum and Damian Lillard scored 21 points apiece, and the Portland Trail Blazers handed the Minnesota Timberwolves their 11th straight road loss.

Portland extended its winning streak to four and improved to 3-0 against the Timberwolves this season.

Karl-Anthony Towns, a contender for Rookie of the Year, was the first player on the court in double figures and finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Clippers 120, Bulls 93

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, leading a dominant bench effort for the second straight game, and the Los Angeles Clippers defeated the Chicago Bulls for their fourth consecutive victory.

J.J. Redick added 21 points and DeAndre Jordan had 17 points and 20 rebounds for the Clippers, who improved to 15-3 without Blake Griffin. Their four-game streak has coincided with Griffin being out at least a month after breaking his right hand while punching the team's assistant equipment manager.

Heat 105, Hawks 87

In Miami, Chris Bosh scored 18 points and the Miami Heat extended their winning streak to four games with a victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

Dwyane Wade and Luol Deng each had 17 points and Amar'e Stoudemire finished with 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who led by as many as 22 and never trailed.

It is Miami's first four-game winning streak in the regular season since March 28 to April 2, 2014.

Magic 119, Celtics 114

In Orlando, Evan Fournier scored 24 points and Aaron Gordon had 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Orlando Magic snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win over the Boston Celtics.

Rookie Mario Hezonja scored 17 points, Tobias Harris had 16 and Nikola Vucevic had 16 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Magic.

Marcus Smart led Boston with 26 points.

Mavericks 91, Suns 78

In Dallas, Deron Williams scored 27 points and the Dallas Mavericks won without Dirk Nowitzki, surging past the lowly Phoenix Suns.

Dwight Powell had six straight points for all his scoring to give the Mavericks the lead for good in the fourth quarter.

Nowitzki sat out the opener of a back-to-back set and the first of Dallas' five games in seven nights.

Manchester United heads to Shrewsbury; Chelsea faces City

SHREWSBURY, England (AP)—Chelsea will host Premier League title favorite Manchester City in the last 16 of the FA Cup, while Wayne Rooney faces an unpleasant trip down memory lane when Manchester United travels to third-tier Shrewsbury, the lowest-placed team left in soccer's oldest club competition.

Sunday's fifth-round draw followed shortly after Chelsea won 5-1 at MK Dons, as interim manager Guus Hiddink's side continued its sporting rehabilitation after a dreadful start to the season. Hiddink likes this competition, having won the FA Cup in 2009 during his last temporary spell in charge of Chelsea.

Tottenham hosts Crystal Palace in a London derby, while Bournemouth takes on Everton in another all-Premier League clash.

Arsenal—chasing a third straight FA Cup title —is at home to Hull, the team it came from 2-0 down to beat 3-2 in the 2014 final. Arsenal has won the cup a record 12 times, one more than United.

Currently 20th in League One, Shrewsbury's weekend has swung from bad to brilliant.

Trailing second-tier Shefield Wednesday 2-1 in the fourth round on Saturday, the West Midlands club equalized in the 87th minute and snatched a 3-2 win in the seventh minute of injury time to set up a lucrative match against United.

Shrewsbury, which has reached the fifth round for the first time since 1991, will be the underdogs at its New Meadow stadium—but Rooney won't be taking victory for granted.

The 17-year-old Rooney was part of the Everton team—managed by future United boss David Moyes—which lost 2-1 to Shrewsbury at its downtown stadium Gay Meadow in the FA Cup third round in 2003.

"We will focus on what's important and that's the next league game at home to Southend United," Shrewsbury manager Micky Mellon said on the club's website.

"I'm delighted that always on the horizon we will have a game against one of the biggest clubs in the world. This game should keep performance levels high from the squad because everyone will want to play in that game."

Peterborough, which is eighth in the same division as Shrewsbury, faces a replay against West Bromwich

Birnbaum's 90th-minute header puts US past Iceland

CARSON, Calif. (AP)—Steve Birnbaum and the U.S. men's national team both need some time to shake off an up-and-down 2015 season.

The defender and his American teammates all got off to a fine start on that process Sunday.

Birnbaum headed home the tiebreaking goal on Michael Bradley's corner kick in the 90th minute, and the U.S. men's national team opened its 2016 schedule with a 3-2 exhibition victory over Iceland on Sunday.

Birnbaum had his first international goal and an assist as a second-half substitute in his second U.S. appearance. The Orange County native set up Michael Orozco's tying goal in the 59th minute before knocking in the late winner, celebrating in front of a crowd that included his mother and grandmother.

Considering Birnbaum didn't even know he would be in this training camp with coach Jurgen Klinsmann's team until shortly before it started, he was thrilled by the follow-up to his U.S. debut last year.

"I didn't really think I was going to be called into camp, and then a couple of days before, (Klinsmann) just said, `Can you be in on Monday?" said Birnbaum, the D.C. United regular. "(Last year) was an up-and-down year. Getting my first cap was great, and then I got injured and it was downhill, and I didn't really hear back from them. It was an up-and-down season at D.C., too. I'm just happy to be back to work."

Jozy Altidore scored in the first half and Bradley had two assists in an entertaining start to the Americans' season after a rough 2015 that included a 2-5-1 finish. Klinsmann's team is preparing for World Cup qualifiers against Guatemala in March, and the coach fielded a lineup mixing World Cup veterans with four players making their U.S. debuts.

Broncos, Panthers arrive in Bay Area for Super Bowl

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—They're here.

The Denver Broncos arrived in the Bay Area on Sunday for Northern California's first Super Bowl since 1985, followed soon after by the Carolina Panthers.

Denver's flight into San Jose, California, was delayed by an hour. The team flew in a customized United Airlines jet with a Broncos logo over the door. Someone in the cockpit waved a Broncos flag out of a window as the plane taxied along the tarmac.

Former Broncos running back Terrell Davis, the Super Bowl MVP in 1998, met the players as they exited the jet.

Panthers All-Pro quarterback Cam Newton emerged from the team plane wearing gold, black and white zebra pants, along with a dark V-neck sweater with a shirt and tie underneath his hooded leather coat. It's not all that unusual an outfit for him considering Newton has been seen wearing loafers without socks with his suit at postgame interviews.

Still, the pants were striking and set social media ablaze.

"Dang, Cam wore the exact same outfit as me today," right tackle Mike Remmers joked on Twitter.

Defensive tackle Dwan Edwards flashed the peace sign to the waiting crowd.

Carolina's de-boarding process wasn't easy at first as the wind caused the steps to the tarmac to wobble significantly. At one point, with several players on the stairs, everyone stopped moving in deference to the gusts. Some even put away their cellphones as they traversed the swaying stairs.

Then again, it's San Francisco.

The players were in a frivolous mood, and who could blame them? They're at the Super Bowl.

Many jumped into each other's photos and ruined others' selfies.

AP

Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton gets off the plane at the Mineta San Jose International Airport as they arrive for the NFL Super Bowl football game Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016, in San Jose, Calif. The Panthers play the Denver Broncos on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2015, in Super Bowl 50.

The Broncos are in their second Super Bowl in three years; they lost 43-8 to Seattle in 2014 in New Jersey. Carolina has been to one, losing to New England in 2004.

Both teams brought their practice squad players and guys on injured reserve.

Panthers cornerback Charles Tillman, who recently had knee surgery, slowly climbed the stairs to the plane in Charlotte, helped by a crutch. Thomas Davis, Carolina's All-Pro linebacker who broke his right forearm in the NFC title game win against Arizona, strapped a video camera to his chest, according to the Panthers' website.

Davis had surgery last Monday and expects to play in the Super Bowl.

The first big event this week is media day on Monday—actually, it's at night this year.

Broncos cornerback Chris Harris Jr. said he was hoping all his teammates "stay under the radar," although he's pretty sure Von Miller won't be able to.

"No telling with Von, he might come in with one of those crazy hats," Harris said. "He's going to do something crazy."

Miller joked that he might pull a Marshawn Lynch and not answer any questions at all.

Fat chance: Miller loves holding court.

Meanwhile, NFL Coach of the Year contender Ron Rivera and the Carolina Panthers are expected to have the support of the Hispanic community when they play the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50 next Sunday.

Rivera is Hispanic, raised by a mother of Mexican descent and a father whose family still calls Puerto Rico home.

NMSA seeks committee chairs for 2021 Mini Games

The 2021 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee is seeking expressions of interest from persons who wish to serve as chairs of seven committees.

The committees were infrastructure, facilities, and equipment; international relations; games village and support services; technology and systems; commercial services; human resources; and revenue and marketing.

The chairs of the committees will serve as members of the Organizing Committee, according to Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White. The Committee will plan and deliver the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, which will be held in June 2021.

The 2021 Games will be the biggest sporting event ever held in the Northern Marianas. NMSA anticipates nearly 2000 athletes, coaches, officials, friends, and their families coming to Saipan. White, who also chairs the Organizing Committee, added in a press statement that advance planning and preparation are critical to the success of the Games that will offer 12 sports.

"We're looking for people who are committed to delivering a first-class Games that we can all be proud of, and that will leave a lasting legacy for the people of the Northern Marianas. We're looking for people who are knowledgeable, experienced, dedicated, and most of all enthusiastic, to help us make these Games the best ever. There's no pay, other than the satisfaction of a job well done," White said.

"If you would like to be a part of all this, send us a letter, telling us what committee you'd like to chair, and why you think you'd be a good candidate for the position. Please attach a copy of your resume. If you have questions, please feel free to send them by email, and we will try to answer them," the NMSA head added.

Responses must be sent to the 2021 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee by email, to mwhite@saipan.com; by fax, to 234-6547; or by snail mail, P. O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950. Deadline for submission of responses is on Feb. 29. ***(PR)***

SSC

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ahead of them when they get home after practice, but still they make it to practice. And when the coaches give them a monster set, but still give 110%. They deserve some fun," Winkfield said.

The SSC head coach added that the biathlon is a good training for club members who want to join this year's XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon.

"With many of our swimmers seriously considering participating in the Tagaman and XTERRA triathlons, we coaches thought what better way to reward them for their hard in the pool than to give them an opportunity to explore their passion for triathlon. It is a win win for everyone," Winkfield said.

Meanwhile, the Meek and Mighty will be held in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

Registration starts at 7am, while races will begin at 8am. Entrance fee is only $10 and interested swimmers can join three regular courses: 1K, 3K, and 5K. A special 200m course is designed for beginners.

For more information, contact SSC at saipanswimclub@gmail.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

OL'ACES

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Sonics fell short, as they failed to score against the Ol'Aces' pesky defense in the last 26 seconds of the game.

The Sonics, who moved within two after Michael Espinosa knocked in a pair of free throws, had a chance to tie the match after Gerald Flores picked Aiferson Atan's pocket on the Ol'Aces frontcourt and threw a pass to the former for a fastbreak play. However, Jerald Castillo tapped the ball away from a driving Espinosa for the Ol'Aces first defensive stop.

The Ol'Aces then played another honest defense in the ensuing play with Nak Nakashima raising both his arms against Mii Tekopua, who attempted for a turnaround shot inside the paint and missed. Nakashima collared the rebound and was fouled by Tekopua, down to 18.9 seconds in the match.

The Sonics gave up one more foul to stop the clock before Espinosa and Fidelino hounded Wilfredo Francisco and forced a held ball after the inbound play. At this time, the Sonics were awarded the ball, as possession arrow pointed to their side.

The Sonics were left with 9.7 seconds to hit the equalizer or a game-winning triple. Neither happened, as again, the Ol'Aces' defense held on. Fidelino made the inbound for the Sonics and passed the ball to Djay Ong at the right corner, while the latter swung the leather to Flores at the right key. Both Ong and Flores were well covered by Ol'Aces defenders so they had to make the extra pass with the former forced to hand the ball to Fidelino. Fidelino eventually lost possession, as Atan sneaked from behind, stealing the ball and dribbling toward their frontcourt before throwing up the leather as time expired.

Atan paced the Ol'Aces with his 17 points, while Nakashima contributed 15. Espinosa led the Sonics with his 15 markers, while Ong added 13.

The 2-point loss was the Sonics' second in as many games against the Ol'Aces, who pulled off a 46-44 victory in the elimination behind Castillo's triple in the closing seconds of the match.

The finalists ended up with similar 3-1 records in the elims and set up their title showdown after the Sonics defeated Rollers 2 and the Ol'Aces won over Rollers 1.

In the finals, neither team managed to pull away. The Sonics led by only 6 at the end of the first period, 18-12, but by halftime, the match was back to square one, 32-all. The match remained tight after the third with the Ol'Aces clinging to a 49-48 lead. It was the same story in the fourth with the Ol'Aces leaning on their scramble defense to rattle the Sonics.

Ol'Aces 64—Atan 17, Nakashima 15, B. Norita 9, Olopai 7, Lizama 4, Castillo 4, Francisco 4, Iba 2, Moses 2.

Sonics 62—Espinosa 15, Ong 13, Javier 8, Castro 7, Tekopua 6, Flores 4, Rivera 3, Feria 2, Fidelino 2, Lansang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-18, 32-32, 49-48, 64-62.

FATHER

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daughter ruled the girls 8 to 12, beating AC and Donna Kapileo in the finals. Eleven raced in the youngest age group contest.

In the 13 to 15 division, Misaki Kitami and Deanna Kapileo took the boys and girls top honors. Kitami defeated Vincent Tudela Jr. and Steven Goodwin in the finals, while Deanna beat Newlyn Jeter.

In the men's 16 to 29, Joshua Andrew, Javin Okawa and Carte Calma made it to the podium, placing ahead of 9 others, while Zia Buniag was ranked first in the women's division, downing Thia Seman.

Rounding out the winners list in the 250m race were Harumi Suzuki, Tom Torres, and Hirumi Matagolai. Matagolai edged Yuko Togawa in the women's masters, while Tom prevailed in the men's masters, and Suzuki finished ahead of Soledad Tenorio in the women's 30 to 44 age group.

In the 500m race, Kitami made it two in a row against Vince Tudela Jr. and Goodwin in the boys 13 to 15, while Deanna also earned her second victory against Jeter.

Joshua Andrew, Buniag, Suzuki, Torres, and Matagolai duplicated Kitami and Deanna's fetes after ruling their respective divisions in the 500m race. Andrew won against the same foes in the men's 16 to 29 division with Calma this time getting the runner-up honors and bringing Okawa down to third. Buniag also defeated Seman in the women's division, while Suzuki won her showdown, too against Tenorio in the women's 30 to 44 age group. Tom Torres and Matagolai were crowned champions in the masters division.

Meanwhile, the "Timmy Would Go" competition was made possible through the support of diamond sponsor Win Way Construction Company Saipan and platinum sponsors Best Sunshine International, Joeten, Triple J, Pacific Trading, Co., Bank of Guam, and TSL Foundation and a host of companies and individuals.

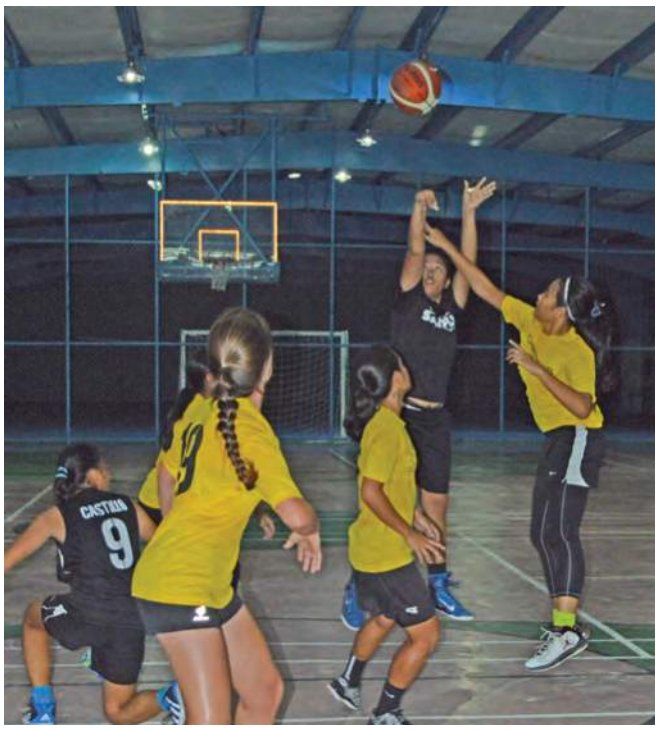
2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament Women's Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sun Palace's Ira Palero pulls up for a point-blanked shot against Lob City's Mikky Kautz during the third quarter of their title game in the women's division of the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Lob Cty Won, 66-62.

Lob City's Mikky Kautz picks up a loose ball.

Sun Palace's Chevy Kate Alipio unloads a jumper against Lob City's Jeraldine Castilllo.



Lob City's Madi Alegre pulls up for a jumper against Sun Palace's Dianne Pablo, right, and Irish Pagarao.

Sun Palace's Dianne Pablo, right, is tightly guarded by Lob City's Mikky Kautz.

Sun Palace's Irish Pagarao jump-stops in between the defense of siblings Jeraldine, left, and Jeralyn, second right, Castillo of Lob City.

Sun Palace's Angie Ito, right, chases the loose ball at the baseline.

Lob City players celebrates after a Jeraldine Castillo jumper sent the title game in overtime.

Lob City's Jeraldine Castillo, second right, beats teammate Lob City's Mikky Kautz for the rebound.

Djokovic wins 6th title; Murray loses 5th final

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Sports

Hornets send Lakers to record-tying 10th loss in row

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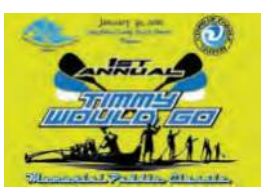
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel smiles as he leads the pack during the 500m stand-up paddling race in last Saturday's Inaugural "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic held at the beachfront of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.

Father and son triumph in 'Timmy Would Go'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Father and son Ketson "Jack" and Koen Kabiriel led winners in the stand-up paddling competition in last Saturday's Inaugural "Timmy Would Go" Memorial Paddle Classic held at the beachfront of Sandy Beach Homes in Chalan Kanoa.



The older Kabiriel won the men's 30 to 49 age group division's 250m and 500m races. In the 250m event, he was the top finisher in both the qualifying heat and in the finals (times were not listed in the results provided by organizers). Vince Tudela and Ponce Rasa joined Jack in the Top 3 in the 250m event. In the 500m race, Rasa slid to third, as Robin Sapong grabbed the runner-up finish behind Jack. Ten other paddlers competed in the two races for the 30 to 49 age category.

In the boys 8 to 12's 250m event, Jack's son Koen won against Tyler Andrew and Miku Torres, while Ponce's

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Ol'Aces dethrone Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces foiled the Sonics' title defense bid after eking out a 64-62 victory in their boys U19 finals duel in the 2015 Tan Holdings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Ol'Aces made a couple of defensive stops down the stretch to hang on to the 2-point lead and prevent the Sonics from winning back-to-back championships in the annual tournament. The Sonics ruled the 2014 division of the competition after routing Rollers 1 in the finals, 88-64. The Ol'Aces also joined the same tournament and lost to Dream Team in the battle for third place, 46-62.

In the 2015 finale, the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces Nak Nakashima, left, challenges the shot of the Sonics' Mii Tekopua during the fourth quarter of their title game in the boys U19 division of the Tan Holdings holiday caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Wataru Kadokura heads out to the course, while his fellow Saipan Swim Club members look on during a biathlon event held last month in Marpi.

SSC holds biathlon; Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim up next

Saipan Swim Club squeezed in a biathlon to its training session last month, while the club is all set for the 2016 Meek and Might Ocean Swim this Saturday.

The biathlon was held late last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi with more than 10 members of the club joining the revived program.

"The idea of reviving this program came from coach Gary De Guzman. Coach Gary wanted to add another element of fun to practice and he recommended combining running and biking with swimming," SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield told *Saipan Tribune*.

"This is the second biathlon we have done, with the first being a run, swim, run. Following the success of the first biathlon, the coaches agreed to hold a different combination monthly to encourage swimmers to explore and experience different events.

"This is a fun event designed to reward our swimmers for their commitment and dedication day in and day out. While their friends are out having fun after school and on weekends they are training. When they know they have hours of homework

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